

Cuts off aid to Pakistan

AMMAN, April 6 (R)—The United States said today it is cutting aid to Pakistan because of reports that it is developing capable of producing nuclear weapons. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said he affected most of the \$340 million set aside for financial year that began last October and a further year starting next October. Mr. Carter said the cut taken under the "Syringate Amendment" to the Assistance Act, which forbids development by country which declines to submit nuclear material management and refuses to sign an agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to international inspection. The spokesman said political minister at the Pakistan Embassy, was the State Department today and informed of the

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I rejects 'Sadat-imposed' economy in West Bank, Gaza

6 (R)—Palestinian commandos would strongly attack efforts by President Anwar Sadat to impose autocracy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

President Sadat was not entitled to settle the problem.

News Agency WAFA said the leader of the Fatah commando biggest Palestinian organisation, decisions during a six-hour meeting to foil these efforts, but did not say the meeting was devoted to the situation, especially after the treaty signed by President Sadat with Israeli Prime Minister m.

In commando movement reacted sharply last night to President Sadat's attack on Palestinian leaders yesterday, and said the Egyptian people would not be misled by "Sadat the traitor."

WAFA said "this rabid and immoral campaign is the other face of the onslaught by the terrorist Menachem Begin against the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"When Sadat stoops to that level in an attempt to defend his capitulation, he is only uncovering to the Egyptian people his ill-disguised betrayal of the Palestinian people... The PLO is confident of the ability of the Egyptian people to pursue their backing and support for the PLO and will refuse to be drawn behind traitor Sadat..."

President Sadat, defending the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty which has been bitterly attacked by the PLO, appealed to Palestinians to ignore "fake leaderships." Mr. Sadat was speaking before the Egyptian People's assembly.

I to probe dispute over destruction in Naqab Desert

6 (Agencies)—stry, stung by a in the Supreme announced Fri why the government in Southern omise to await ans to build a nomadic Arabs and Thursday the Court judges had been of court, and jail the official owing the con

struction work.

The opposition Labour Party, seeking political advantage in the affair, called a special session of parliament for next Monday to accuse Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government of ignoring bedouin rights. "What we have is a government that does not give a damn about court decisions," a Labour spokesman said.

On Wednesday and Thursday there were clashes between bedouins and police protecting construction workers at the site 50 kilometres south of occupied Jerusalem in the Naqab Desert.

Press reports said at least 24 bedouins were arrested, and there were injuries on both sides. Nine policemen were struck by stones, and in turn used batons to beat the bedouins. Jewish and Arab students at Ben Gurion University in Beersheba mounted a sympathy demonstration on campus, and 56 were arrested when they refused to obey police orders to disperse, a police spokesman said.

The Supreme Court, summoned in an emergency session by the bedouin who owns the land, said the government had violated a promise made in February that there would be no construction work unless a court authorised it.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, announcing the investigation Friday, said the court's rebuke had "struck like thunder."

In court on Thursday, the government's legal representative claimed there had been a misunderstanding, but the judges were not moved.

Chief Justice Yoel Sussman said the government had shown contempt of court by allowing its representatives to enter the area despite a pledge not to start work without a special district court order.

The Supreme Court justices described the incident as one of the blackest examples of government disregard for an explicit undertaking.

Judge Sussman said: "Can a citizen not expect fair treatment from the government? You declared that without a court order you would not enter the land. The attorney general must ensure that the law is maintained in the country."

The judges ordered that all construction equipment be removed from the land and ordered the government to show within 21 days why bedouin agricultural lands were being expropriated to build a bedouin town.

Naqab bedouins have contested recently that some of their lands will be taken to build air bases to replace those in the Sinai.

Top U.S. defence aide in Amman for a short visit

AMMAN, April 6 (Agencies)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense David McGiffert arrived here today for a several days lasting visit to Jordan. Mr. McGiffert, who is accompanied by a military delegation, will meet a number of Jordanian government officials and will tour Jordanian military positions as well as archaeological and touristic sites.

In Tel Aviv earlier today, Mr. McGiffert was reported to have agreed with Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman that the United States would finance and manage the construction of two airbases in the Negev Desert.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the United States will provide a grant of \$800 million for the airfields, which are to replace two bases in the Sinai Desert Israel will hand over to Egypt under the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

Work will begin at the end of June, and will be completed in three years, when Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai according to a defense ministry spokesman.

April 6 (R)—Palestinian commandos said today they planted on an Israeli bus at Tiberias had an expert was trying to defuse it. A spokesman slightly wounded the man and wounded two other in Tel Aviv earlier today said a bomb on a bus was dismantled, but did not mention casualties.

We recently urged the public to be on the alert for by Palestinian commandos to increase activity in the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

16 (R)—Increasing emigration of Soviet Jews to a Kremlin plan to extend Moscow's influence in the Middle East, according to Al-Arabian newspapers said today. The Kremlin statements, but really intends to use the emigration position in the Middle East at the expense of claimed allies, they said. "During the current year, the chief plan to send 50,000 Soviet Jews to the Middle East," they said. "These facts clearly show the anti-Arab social imperialists, who are trying by all means deeply as possible into the Middle East."

16 (R)—A one-day national strike by Lebanese operations at Beirut's port and international airports of the national airline, Middle East Airlines (MEA).

An airline spokesman said manual workers increases walked out but casual labour had been load non-MEA flights. At the port, where work is because of sniping, work ceased entirely. The Federation has asked for an increase to match the per cent rise in the cost of living. The government rises ranging from 10 to 26.5 per cent for workers.

April 6 (R)—Jewish settlers in the Israeli occupied Jordan have told the U.S. embassy its people barred from visiting their settlements, even by the Council of Jewish Settlements in the West. In a letter to the embassy that its personnel and of the American consulate in East Jerusalem were between Jewish settlers and the Arab population, they carried out activities aimed at laying the foundations of a Palestinian state on the West Bank. There was on the embassy.

6 (R)—Labour leaders said today that strikes this week would go ahead despite talks yesterday between Bouabdil to arrange a truce. The talks followed strikes in Morocco. A four-day stoppage by unions was due to end tonight, and trade unions said a one-day strike on Monday at the STB agency tea and sugar sale. Two 48-hour strikes would start the national health department and in the educational sector.

6 (AP)—North and South Yemen are exchanging prisoners from their armed border conflict. Agency (INA) reported today. In dispatch from capital of Sanaa, the agency said the prisoner exchange started on Thursday. The report did not say exactly how many soldiers were exchanged and South Yemen engaged in a three-week dispute during March that prompted an urgent Arab League's ministerial conference in Kuwait to bring foreign ministers brought the Yemeni clash to an end political and military follow-up committees to implementation of the cease-fire agreement concluded.

RUSALEM, April 6 (R)—Nearly 90 per cent of those who voted in the election will lead to normal relations with Egypt, will be published today. The poll by the Hebrew University's Institute for mass media and social research for the ministry of information that 86 per cent thought there would be normality 75 per cent thought the peace would be long-

Amin urges Ugandans to continue fighting

Invaders prepare for final blow to Kampala

NAIROBI, April 6 (R)—Uganda Radio today broadcast what it said was a live speech by President Idi Amin in Kampala—a city reported to be virtually undefended and awaiting a Tanzanian and Ugandan invasion force.

The broadcast urged the Ugandan people not to panic and not to fear the enemy bombardment as the invaders were at least 65 kilometres away.

But diplomatic sources in Nairobi said earlier that their information was that the invaders were in the suburbs of the capital preparing for a final push into the city centre.

Ugandan exile sources said Libyan troops brought in to shore up President Amin's regime had been seen boarding trains at Mukono and Jinja to the east of Kampala. Their destination was

unknown, but diplomats said they could be picked up from small airstrips in the east and northeast of the country.

Diplomats in Kampala said the Libyan ambassador there had pulled out of the city with his staff.

Rumours flashed through Kampala, Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam that President Amin was also planning to leave the country with the Libyans. Uganda Radio said his 12-minute broadcast came live from the Nakasero studios in the centre of Kampala.

The president, speaking in English, Swahili and Luganda, said: "We are bound to defeat these enemies. We will fight. We have food, we have arms, we have equipment, we have the military fighting spirit."

Diplomats in Kampala said the city was virtually empty of any

troops, either loyal to Field Marshal Amin or opposed to him.

A member of the Central Committee of the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF), the umbrella body representing Ugandan exiles,

released a statement in Dar Es Salaam saying the invasion force had occupied the whole of Kampala except Nakasero Hill, where the radio station and one of President Amin's lodges are situated in the city centre. But the front's official spokesman later retracted the statement, giving no reason.

Other exile sources said the invasion force had sent scouts around the city today, combing the streets for pockets of resistance and checking for mines, but this could not be confirmed by residents in Kampala.

Violent protest against Bhutto hanging continues

ISLAMABAD, April 6 (6 Agencies)—Violent protests against the hanging of former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto erupted across Pakistan today as his detained wife and daughter sprayed at his graveside.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Miss Benazir Bhutto were flown in a special plane from their place of detention near Rawalpindi for their first visit to the grave near the dead leader's hometown of Larkana, according to an official announcement.

Chief Justice Yoel Sussman said the government had shown contempt of court by allowing its representatives to enter the area despite a pledge not to start work without a special district court order.

The Supreme Court justices described the incident as one of the blackest examples of government disregard for an explicit undertaking.

Judge Sussman said: "Can a citizen not expect fair treatment from the government? You declared that without a court order you would not enter the land. The attorney general must ensure that the law is maintained in the country."

The judges ordered that all construction equipment be removed from the land and ordered the government to show within 21 days why bedouin agricultural lands were being expropriated to build a bedouin town.

Naqab bedouins have contested recently that some of their lands will be taken to build air bases to replace those in the Sinai.

The government later issued a statement saying it would take serious action to quell any future outbreaks of violence.

Large squads of riot police thronged Rawalpindi today and appeared to be arresting people on sight. On one occasion they rushed into a cafe and dragged off a group of youths. Thousands of Moslems in Calcutta today marched through the city and burnt an effigy of Pakistan's President Zia-Ul-Haq in protest against his execution.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that in many mosques in eastern and northern India meetings were held to condemn the hanging of Mr. Bhutto, and traditional Friday prayers were devoted to the dead politician.

The demonstrators in Calcutta also attacked the offices of the local Jamaat-i-Islami party which supported the decision of Gen. Zia not to commute Mr. Bhutto's death sentence, PTI reported.

In New Delhi, opposition members of parliament held up proceedings of India's upper house after their demands for a debate on the execution of Mr. Bhutto were turned down by the speaker.

Some of the most heated demonstrations against the execution have been in predominantly Moslem Kashmir. Three people were killed in the state on Wednesday, and a fourth died yesterday.

PTI said today that about 200 houses, schools and shops belonging to supporters of the Jamaat-i-Islami party in the Kashmir valley had been destroyed.

More fighting was reported today near the state capital of Srinagar between demonstrators and Jamaat supporters. PTI said police used teargas to control the crowds.

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King Hussein: Treaty shocked Arab World

AMMAN, April 6 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein said today that the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty draws the Arab World away from a comprehensive peace which it had always sought.

Speaking to French Television, the King said that the treaty had caused a shock to the entire Arab World.

"The treaty departs from all the logical steps which we thought would lead to greater cohesion among the Arab states in our search for a just and durable peace in the Middle East region," the King said.

"The treaty has gained for Israel what it had always sought for years, that is the isolation of Egypt from the rest of the Arab World, and continued Israeli occupation of Arab land. The treaty might have also paved the way for more Israeli adventures in the Arab World," the King added.

Sadat pledges to fight own battles

CAIRO, April 6 (R)—President Anwar Sadat said today he would fight his own battles and would never seek American or other outside help against Arab powers opposing the Egyptian-Israeli separate peace treaty.

The Egyptian leader spoke to reporters after praying in a mosque on the eve of a parliamentary debate on the peace pact -- a prelude to the treaty's final ratification by Egypt.

Asked by correspondents whether he might request the United States or other friendly nations to help persuade the anti-treaty Arabs to change their policies, President Sadat replied: "Let me tell you in all candour, I could never afford to fight my battle for me. I have never done this before and I shall never do it in the future."

President Sadat has strongly criticised his Arab opponents who met in Baghdad last week and ordered a diplomatic, political and economic boycott of Egypt for making separate peace with Israel.

He described the Arab critics as "dwarfs" and said he would back at Palestinians if they attacked Egyptian interests. Nearly all Arab ambassadors to Cairo were recalled by their governments after the Baghdad meeting.

"The treaty is an undisguised attempt to legalise the aggressor's presence in other people's land... Such a treaty does not and cannot lead up to peace," he said.

IN PICTURES: THE ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINE

Design: Studio 2000 by Alia Public Relations

KAWTHER WELCOMES PROFESSOR ALTHAUS AND DR. JUNG.

Professor Althaus, one of the most prominent researchers in the world has arrived in Amman for a three-day visit at the invitation of the Arab Mineral Water Company (KAWTHER). Professor Althaus is director of the Hygiene Institute in West Germany, officially accredited to supervise water resources in that country. He is accompanied on the visit by Dr. Jung, another well-known water specialist.

The two specialists will be visiting the Amman Chamber of Industry as well as those touristic sites which are associated with mineral water resources. They will go to Qasr Halabat, site of Al Kawther water mineral springs.

During the visit the professor will announce his institute's consent to supervise the Kawther water springs and laboratories. Thus Al Kawther will be the first Arab mineral water company ever to acquire joint international supervision. By the French company Sperre Evian for production and the West German Hygiene Institute for hygiene and laboratories.

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Let's not pretend

IT'S NO GOOD pretending that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is anything other than what it is: a partial solution to one aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict that has made it more difficult than ever to secure a comprehensive settlement which could endure the test of time—yet that is precisely the pretence which President Sadat wants us to engage in, judging by his marathon speech on Thursday.

It pains us to belabour the obvious, but given Mr. Sadat's insistence that Palestinian self-determination and the return of the holy city of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty have not been compromised by the deal he has struck, we must beg him not to insult our intelligence and bludgeon us over the head with his sophistry.

Must we remind Mr. Sadat that, at the beginning of his first term in office, he promised the Egyptian people that the "year of decision" (his code name for the liberation of Israeli-occupied territories) was at hand, only to find himself in danger of turning into a laughing stock when one year stretched into two? What was his solution? He simply repeated his pledge for the second year running, thus inventing an impossible twenty-four-month year. When the two years were up, his excuse was that Egyptian planes had gone out on a sortie to strike at Israeli targets, but had to turn back because "there was a fog over Sinai," as he put it at the time. As the lameness of the excuse grew, so did the credibility gap he was creating.

Finally he went to war against Israel in 1973: a war he claims to have won, and which did much to restore his credibility. After Sinai II, he got back the Suez Canal and its revenues, which Egypt lost in 1967. Encouraged by Sinai II, negotiated with the help of Kissinger, he decided to "wage peace" instead of war, hence his trip to Jerusalem. Now he has secured the return of Sinai, plus the revenues from the oil wells, plus American aid—at the expense of the other occupied Arab territories, Palestinian rights and Arab aid.

Each time he has delivered less than he promised. Instead of all the occupied Arab territories he got back Sinai. Instead of Palestinian self-determination, which he put forward as a condition for peace in his speech to the Knesset, he has settled for Begin's autonomy plan. But he wants Arab aid to be restored; so he is pretending that he has not hurt the cause of Palestinian self-determination or chances for the restoration of the West Bank and Gaza.

How can Mr. Sadat expect us to believe him when immediately following the signature of the peace treaty, Prime Minister Begin announced in his speech that the second happiest day in his life was when Israeli troops occupied Arab Jerusalem; this after Mr. Sadat had dropped any reference to the restoration of the holy city and self-determination for the Palestinians from his own speech?

Mr. Sadat will surely pardon us if we maintain that it is what the Egyptian president signs, not what he says, that matters. He has agreed to make peace with Israel, including full normalisation of relations and the exchange of ambassadors, regardless of whether the other Arabs get back the territories they lost in the 1967 war (under Egyptian command) and regardless of what happens to the Palestinians. The "autonomy" plan he is trying to foist on the Palestinians will only perpetuate Israeli occupation, not end it. He has effectively removed Egypt's weight from the Arab side of the scales in any forthcoming negotiations for peace.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I FRIDAY COMMENTS on the recent visit to Cairo by Israeli premier Menachem Begin and the start of a new era in relations between Egypt and Israel. The paper says that the relations which Begin is intent on establishing are "unnatural" and "illogical".

In their drive to create new Israeli-Egyptian ties both Sadat and Begin are ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people. With their dramatic moves they also help perpetuate the occupation by Israel of Arab lands and the captivity of our people, the paper adds.

Despite reports of the two sides' intentions to have groups of officials, religious leaders, and journalists, exchange/visits and despite the opening of land, sea and air routes between Israel and Egypt, the paper believes that the Egyptian people will never forget the Palestine problem and the Palestinian people for whom Egypt has made so many sacrifices.

AL DUSTOUR draws a comparison between a statement by His Majesty King Hussein in an interview with Independent Television News two days ago and President Sadat's speech before the Egyptian People's council yesterday.

The King said in the interview that whatever the pressures on Jordan, it will not change its stand or relinquish its quest for a just and comprehensive peace. Jordan will not get involved in futile efforts that don't include guarantees of a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. The King's statement the paper says, is a declaration to the world that the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty cannot solve the Middle East problem and reiterates his support of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions. The King clearly indicated Jordan's unchanging stand and re-emphasised the country's commitment to the Arab cause, the paper adds.

In contrast, President Sadat in his speech before the Egyptian People's Assembly yesterday, defended his separate treaty with Israel. It had been hoped, the paper continues, that Sadat would tackle other points and at least express Egypt's intention to pursue work for achieving a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, but instead Sadat had regrettably resorted to insults and bitter attacks on his opponents.

In reply "we must not involve ourselves in Sadat's altercations and return the same language" the paper says. Our efforts, should be directed to the real goal and we must struggle with confidence for the restoration of our rights and the liberation of our occupied land, the paper concludes.

3rd education project expects to receive World Bank financing

By Lee S. Tesdell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Jordan is currently negotiating with the World Bank on final details of the third current Ministry of Education project to be funded by the bank.

To be included in this latest undertaking are an industrial school in Sahab, three comprehensive schools, a community college in Zarqa, two extensions to existing comprehensive schools and a computer for a "Management Information System" at the Ministry of Education, officials at the ministry told the Jordan Times today.

The first World Bank assisted project is now in operation. It includes the Marka Polytechnic, two comprehensive schools, one for boys and one for girls (both in Amman) and the Teacher Training Institute in Salt.

The second is now under construction and due for completion, "we hope in 1980," Projects Director Dr. Abdul Latif Arabyat, said. A second polytechnic under construction at Husn near Irbid is part of the scheme. Whereas the first poly-

technic at Marka trains its students in surveying and other engineering technologies, the new one will concentrate on textile technology, food canning technology and other industrial processes. Also under construction are three comprehensive schools, two in Zarqa, and one in Irbid, a teacher training centre at Aqaba, a hotel training centre in Amman and a rural development centre at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley.

Ministry officials told us that comprehensive schools are designed to produce graduates who are "flexible to the local market." The target enrolment for each of the comprehensive schools in Jordan is 1,000 students each. Courses of study offered are scientific, literary, commercial and industrial.

World Bank procedure for project approval is based on a four-step checklist according to Ministry officials.

Firstly, a team comes to look at statistics in Jordan with an eye to what the country's needs are. Secondly, an identification mission selects sites in Jordan for individual projects. Thirdly, an

appraisal mission determines the financial aspects of the project. Lastly, final negotiations take place in Washington, D.C. at World Bank headquarters. A team made up of top officials carries out negotiations on Jordan's behalf.

Payment for the second World Bank project was arranged on a credit system whereby Jordan begins repaying the loan after ten years, and must complete payment in fifty years, according to Ministry officials. Payment for the third project has not yet been negotiated.

For both the first and second projects, three outside agencies are meant to provide training assistance: the British Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO. The organisations to fulfill this function for the third project has not yet been decided.

Dr. Arabyat estimates that 28,000 students will sit for the tawjihiyah in both West and East Banks this year. Of these, 22,000 will take the exam in the East Bank. A passing rate of approximately 70 per cent is forecast for the exam this year.

Ministry officials estimate that there are about 12,500 places for post-tawjihiyah students in the East Bank for the coming year. This includes the two universities, teacher training colleges, the polytechnic institute in Marka and four private colleges. There are also, three universities in the West Bank: Al-Najah in Nablus, Birzeit in Birzeit and Bethlehem in Bethlehem. A fourth is being set up in Gaza.

A minimum of 5,500 students therefore will have no place open for them after they complete the tawjihiyah. Possibilities for them include studying abroad or by correspondence. Officials say that about 30,000 students now study through programmes at Beirut universities, and another 50,000 study abroad. However, Dr. Arabyat says that the 50,000 figure is not accurate. "I feel it is more," he said. There are about 600 students abroad on Ministry of Education scholarships alone.

The council also expressed pride in the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein to make the ninth Arab summit conference and the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad successful.

In addition the council voiced gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of Arab leaders, and appealed to them to further increase the solidarity they demonstrated during the Baghdad summit conference.

The council's statement also

expressed pride in the steadfastness of the people in the occupied Arab territories and called on Arab states to extend more support and aid to them so that they can abort various Israeli plots that are aimed against their existence.

Furthermore, the council called on the Jordanian people to close ranks and safeguard their unity in order to foil all intrigues and conspiracies now aimed against the Arab nation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Marcel Carné entitled "Therese Raquin" at 7:30 p.m. French version with Arabic subtitles.

School Bazaar

The Orthodox School presents a bazaar consisting of elementary section students' artwork and handicrafts, on displaying at Webb-de Tamari School in Shmeisani.

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least important Middle East issue—Sinai—leaving the most important one—Palestine—for the parties to solve without a bargaining power Egypt's strength provides the Arabs.

The following article, by former U.S. Senator James Abourezk, analyses the cost of the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, not only to the American taxpayer, but also to the cause of a durable peace in the Middle East and what he terms "the shaky moral status of the United States." The article is reprinted from the Saudi daily Arab News of March 31. It originally appeared in the Washington Post.

UPON ANNOUNCEMENT of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement, a friend of mine, a businessman, commented that he wished he could have a percentage commission on peace agreements in the Middle East.

I saw what he meant. He would have been able to retire, based on what the United States Treasury (on behalf of the American taxpayer) has paid out for "peace" since 1973. We gave Israel at least \$3.5 billion outright for the Sinai II agreement in 1973, in return for its relinquishment of some 5 miles of the Sinai's desert. And good old Henry Kissinger also signed an agreement binding the United States to provide Israel with its oil supply should it ever subsequently be cut off. That was in return for giving Egypt back its oil fields.

This new treaty "breakthrough," as the press loves to call the agreement, will, as a one-shot deal, empty out some \$5 billion in additional dollars from the U.S. Treasury, over and above the amount already going to Israel and Egypt. Exclusive of the peace dividends we have previously paid to Israel, Americans have been sending about \$1.1 billion a year to that country. And Egypt will come in for \$1.5 billion over and above the economic aid already in their pipeline. One of the national TV networks has estimated the total cost of the agreement at \$19 billion over the next five years, all of it underwritten by the hapless American taxpayer.

One can always argue that peace at any price is cheaper than war. But, as one commentator has put it, this is a peace treaty without peace. It is Israel's way to buy time and have someone else pay for it. The agreement has again severely polarised the Middle East, while at the same time putting into severe imbalance the power structure of the entire area. In less formal language, the agreement ensures that Israel will never again have to negotiate an agreement with Syria or Jordan or the Palestinians. Without Egypt to provide population and muscle to the Arab bloc, Israel is now able, if it wants, to coerce an agreement; but it will never have to negotiate one.

The act of brokering a separate peace between Israel and Egypt was really obtainable without the intervention of the president of the United States. It is a peace treaty that over the years, Israel would have given anything to sign. It became one that Egypt gave up virtually everything to get. Thus, all of Carter's energy and prestige were expended on

AMMAN, April 6 (J.T.)—A report on the environment in Jordan was reviewed here yesterday by the higher health council under the chairmanship of Health Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

The report was prepared by a committee comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Health and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Amman Municipality.

According to the report, Jordan

Peace treaties: A lucrative business

the least important Middle East issue—Sinai—leaving the most important one—Palestine—for the parties to solve without a bargaining power Egypt's strength provides the Arabs.

The proof of this lies in Prime Minister Begin's arrogant outburst before the Knesset, even before the treaty was signed, in which he has once again confirmed that Israel will never allow an independent Palestinian state. He has also laid out terms for permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank: "Autonomy for the people, but for the West Bank." That is an ingenious way to justify illegal settlements in the occupied territories. Autonomy, as agreed upon by Carter and Begin, means that local Palestinians quislings, if any can be found, will be part of administrative council, a local government, for West Bank. Only one catch exists, however, decision taken by the new council must be agreed upon by Israel, which has promised its troops in the West Bank to enforce its o-

penation.

Autonomy, then, is nothing more than advertising that's catchword, which has no meaning. It is a word that is used to hide the significance of this so-called peace treaty.

The big thing about this peace treaty is that it deliberately ignores the real parties in interest: Palestinians, who are represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel is at war with Palestinians because they want a return of all of their lands in order to organise a state of their own. Absent that, there will be peace only continued suffering by millions of homeless refugees, and an invitation to terror which will then be publicly denounced by those who are really responsible for it.

Readers should take note of who are the losers and who are the losers in this game organised by President Carter. Clearly, electoral chances now are marginally better for making him clear, if only a temporary, v

Begin's government has come out ahead of getting Carter to abandon Egypt from the bloc—a fear that Israel could not do over the last three decades. The additional of American tax money that will go to the even more gravy. It is Carter's way of saying illegal aggression pays. Why shouldn't Israel reward each time it does?

The losers, not necessarily in order of importance, are given food supplies, import taxes, industrial environments and de-contamination of spheres.

The council also

for the formation of a

to draw up plans for

environment in Jordan to their implementa

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be partly cloudy with rain in some parts of the country. Winds will be easterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba Gulf there will be dusty conditions, northerly fresh winds and calm seas.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	12	26
Aqaba	17	28
Deserts	13	28
Jordan Valley	16	32

According to the report, Jordan

JACQUES KOURKY

Has received his furniture - no longer in need of psychiatric treatment.

AL DARAWEESH RESTAURANT

Welcomes its patrons and presents all types of food...Armenian, Circassian, Arab and others... Excellent service, soft music, Spanish decor... There is a special corner for families and a parking lot.

Location: Jabal Amman, Second Circle, Al Khatib street Tel 41671

HELP WANTED

mas-Scene

for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of April 7 - 13)

EXHIBITS

AY, April 7: An exhibition of French graphic art will open at Al Shab Gallery opening with a 6 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4:30 - 8 p.m. daily except

AY, April 7: A joint exhibition by Suweida artist and his fiance Leyla Mirewad will open with a 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre.

20 expressionist etchings and oil paintings will be Mr. Dallal, a 1976 graduate of the Fine Arts Damascus University. The current show will mark his ion in Damascus. One of his works is in the permanent exhibition in Beirut.

wad will be represented by 20 realistic pen and ink studies fine art in Beirut and is a student at the Fine y, Damascus University. Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily

AY, April 10: More than 40 abstract oils by Damashmadi Ghnoum will go on view at Urmina Galloor of the Meridien Hotel. A 1977 graduate of the Academy of Damascus University, Mr. Ghnoum's how abstract - implies an Arabic motif. A 6 p.m. open the two-week exhibition. Hours: 10 a.m. - 30 - 8 p.m. daily except Friday.

AY, April 12: An exhibition of graphic art and lithographs of the German Democratic Republic will go on mander of the month at the GDR Cultural Centre.

JING: "Tendencies of Contemporary Architecture comes an exhibition of black and white and colour French Cultural Centre. The exhibition is in con-

tinuation colloquium to be led by French urbanist,

ise Choay, on the architectural blueprints for

CONCERT

AY, April 12: An evening of classical music will be Luis Rego, pianist, and Maruja Rodriguez, violinist at the Shamiyah Salon of the Damascus National programme will feature the works of Beethoven, and Corelli, including the latter's, "Aria du Danza Spagna."

was born in Bilbao, studied piano in San Sebastian id composition at the Royal Conservatory of Madrid received special awards for the piano. He continued to and has received awards in international comp-

ope, Africa, and the Americas.

gue was born in Tore, Spain and began violin age of seven in Salamanca; she finished her studies award from the Conservatory of Music in Madrid have been published as part of the orchestration on Orchestra of Barcelona and she appears as an

National TV and Broadcasting Orchestra of Spain.

TELE-TAPED PROGRAMMES

AY, April 11: "L'echare de soie rouge" titles an narrated by Arsene Lupin at 6:30 p.m. at the al Centre (in French).

AY, April 13: A documentary on the history of aviation at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in

LECTURES

AY, April 8: The Union of Syrian Writers will present Director of the Arab Cultural Centre, speaking on America" at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre (in

AY, April 9: "Natural Sources in Syria" will be topic of Ibrahim at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre. The apic Association is sponsoring the talk by Ms. a geography teacher in Damascus high schools (in

AY, April 10: "The Sense of the City" is the title of a on the problems of urbanism at 6:30 p.m. at cultural Centre. The Department of Architecture of iversity is sponsoring the event which will be led by. ischoay, a professor of the Institute of Urbanism, Paris. Mme. Choay is an architect who is particularly h the plans for urbanism in Damascus (in French).

AY, April 10: "Prophylaxis" is the title of a discussion of Syria and the German Democratic Republic at German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. The in the occasion of World Health Day (in Arabic and

WEDNESDAY, April 11: "The Child Between the Retarded and Gifted Levels" is the title of a talk by Adrian Subaii, a professor at the University of Damascus, at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

THURSDAY, April 12: "Aspects of the Arab Mystique" will be the topic of Dr. M. Roger Arnaldez of the Sorbonne at 6 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. Dr. Arnaldez is president of the French Committee of Arabic Scientific History (in French).

FILMS

SATURDAY, April 7 and MONDAY, April 9: "Z", the internationally acclaimed political thriller directed by Costa-Gavras starring Yves Montand and Irene Papas, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, April 8: "The Judge of Zafamea" titles a film to be shown at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre at 6:30 p.m. (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

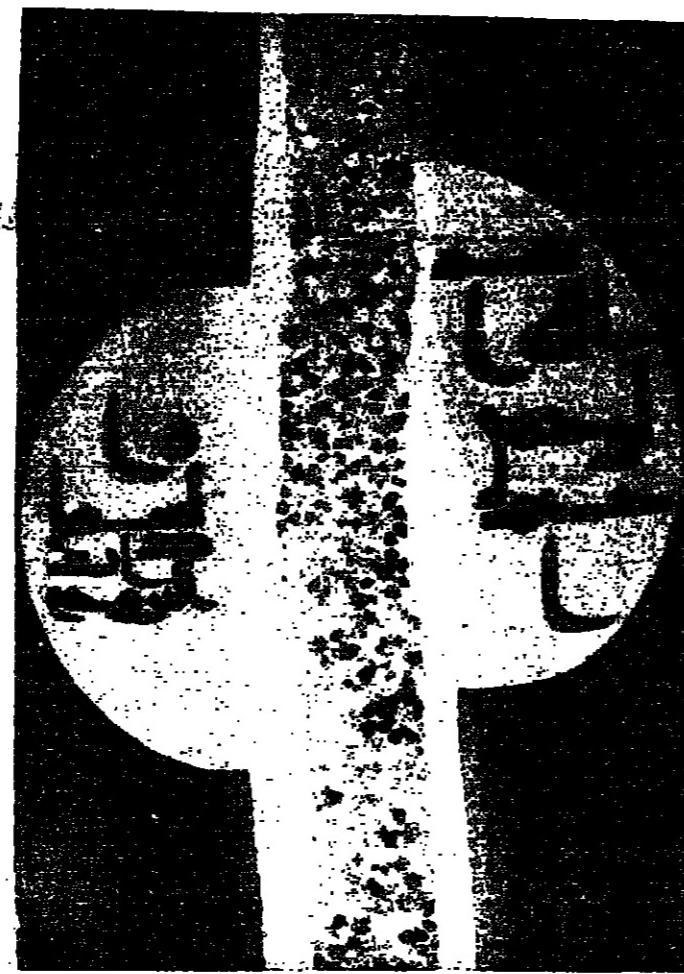
MONDAY, April 9: "Hamlet", Part I will be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

TUESDAY, April 10: Two colour documentary films on Spain will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre. They are titled, "Castillos de Espana" (in French, Arabic sub-titles) and "Canarias, un Paraíso Surgido de las Aguas" (in English, Arabic and French sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, April 11: "Hamlet", Part II will be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre at 6 p.m. (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

ENTERTAINMENT

Chanteuse Olivia Palm sings nightly at the rooftop supper club of the Meridien Hotel. Orphaned at the age of 10, Ms. Palm studied music at a convent to the age of 20 when she became a model for the French couturier Carven for three years. She then went on to sing in Parisian cabarets including Don Camillo, Oree du Bois and Belle Epoque and to work as a singer with Serge Lama. She writes lyrics for songs composed by her pianist husband. In Damascus, she is backed on the guitar by Patrick Siniavine and the Ignazio Orchestra.



Two untitled Arabic-themed abstracts (above and below) by Mohammad Ghnoum featured in a one-man show opening Tuesday at Urmina Gallery.



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY APRIL 7, 1979

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Page 3

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Easter is right around the corner and if you want to give your youngsters a seasonal treat, try to take them to the Meridien Hotel where a traditional Easter spring display is in the main lobby. A cottage is home for live bunnies and chickens who are penned in by a garlanded picket fence. There also are live lambs, caged canaries and taped Easter music.

The mission at Meskene recovered over 1,900 cuneiform tablets which ascertained the site was the 2nd millennium B.C. town of Emar mentioned in texts of Mari.

Dr. Raymond's forthcoming book is an extension of his definitive work on the Ottoman Empire in Cairo, "Artisans and Traders in Cairo in the 18th Century," published by the French Institute in 1974. His new work will deal with Aleppo, Algiers, Tunis, Cairo and Istanbul during the 16th - 18th centuries.

Anyone who's been complaining about the unseasonably warm weather should talk to the contingent of 147 Americans from the American community in Dhabran, Saudi Arabia, who visited Damascus for three days this past week. They thought the climate was gloriously cool and refreshing.

The whirlwind tour of Syria was the brainchild of Skip Richardson, whose husband, Robert, is the principal of a school in Dhabran. Skip reports there are 40,000 Americans in Dhabran and she led her first Damascus tour for American expatriates living in Dhabran last October.

The groups always stay at the Meridien Hotel and the past week's excursion was the first of four tours to Syria slated for 1979. The Meridien staff attempts to plan something special for each tour and on this visit, the arriving group checked in late at night in the Discotheque where drinks and welcome music were on the house.

"We hope to take side trips to Palmyra, Busra and Hama in the future," Skip said, commenting that in addition to the highlights of Damascus, the group visited Maloula and the 5th century A.D. monastery of Seydema.

Vivacious Skip was assisted by tour leaders, Jane Latshaw, whose husband is Aramco director of petroleum exploration in Dhabran; Korky Pentaher, whose husband is head of central supply for the Aramco Hospital; and Marsha Cathey, whose husband was watching camel races with King Khaled in the desert during her Damascus sojourn.

There was only a brief time to talk with the happy, weary travelers, among whom were Rose and Dr. Sam Batato, head surgeon of the Aramco Hospital, who were especially impressed by their visit to the Shrine of Zeinab.

A distinguished visitor to Syria who's actually a long-time former resident of Damascus is Dr. Andre Raymond, professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Provence, France.

Dr. Raymond is in Damascus for a three-fold purpose: to participate in the newly organized International Mission to Safeguard Old Damascus, which has its opening session Tuesday; to attend initial sessions of Aleppo Science Week at the Centre for Arabic Science, April 7 - 13, in Aleppo; and to continue research on his forthcoming academic tome dealing with capitals of the Ottoman Empire.

Dr. Raymond holds a warm spot in the hearts of most Syrian scholars for his active role as director of the Damascus French Institute from 1966 to 1975. A highlight of his career at the institute was the 1970-74 expedition he

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DEAR SHAREHOLDERS,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Report of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank Ltd. on the results of the activities of your institution for the year ended 31st December 1978, together with the consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account. Figures pertaining to our sister institutions and affiliates have not been included in these financial statements.

From the statistics in the Report and the two accompanying financial statements, it will be observed that all figures for the year under review show noticeable rises over the 1977 figures, and as you know considerable increases were recorded during the last few years. Compared with 1977, Balance Sheet Total rose by 8.8%; Deposits by 17.3%, and Bills Discounted and Loans accounts by 14.3%. The volume of documentary letters of credit and collection bills executed by our branches for imports and exports rose by 20%, to 795 million Jordan Dinars. Guarantees issued at the request of clients and banks in favour of government departments in the various countries where your institution operates, as well as in other countries, totalled 337 million Jordan Dinars. Of these, guarantees in the amount of 87 million Jordan Dinars were issued at the request of banks.

The above mentioned figures signify the extent of the strong relations and esteemed position of your institution both in the Arab countries and in the world at large. They also lay emphasis on our increasing activities in the facilities extended to our customers for the import of such commodities as foodstuffs and industrial, construction and productive materials, as well as for the issuing of guarantees for the execution of projects in the Arab and other countries in which we have branches. This expansion has been achieved in spite of the slackening in business which had occurred late in 1977 and continued in 1978.

It pleases me, on this occasion, to mention that your institution participated during the year under review, in many international syndicated loans, denominated in foreign currencies. Our participations in such loans amounted to the equivalent of 63 million Jordan Dinars. A large percentage of these loans (53.5%) was for financing important projects in the Arab countries. Your institution ranked 238th among the top five hundred banks in the non-communist world.

Our Marks Branch, Amman (near the present international airport) commenced business on the 20th of February, 1978. Our Paris Branch, France, commenced business on 20th October, 1978. It is hoped that this branch will contribute to stimulating trade between France and the Arab countries, in cooperation with our other branches and our sister institutions, and affiliates in U.K., Switzerland, France, U.S.A., Morocco, Nigeria and Germany. The number of Arab Bank branches is now fifty one, excluding our seven branches in the West Bank and Gaza temporarily closed since the Israeli aggression of 1967.

Throughout the year 1978 the Bank has maintained a high liquidity ratio which was 64.2% at the end of the year excluding marketable securities. As a result of the increase of the business volume of our branches, both revenues and expenditures rose, but Net Profit exceeded that of the previous year. An adequate amount was allocated to the various Reserves in order to face all possible risks and contingencies. As stated in our last year's Annual Report an amount of JD 1,522,625 was allocated as Undivided Profit. To this account, JD 2,449,900 was added from the 1978 profits and the balance of Undivided Profit is now JD 3,972,525.

You will observe, from the attached Report, that your Board of Directors has decided to distribute dividends at the rate of JD 2,500 per share i.e. 25% of the par value, as compared with 22% in the previous year. We hope that your institution will continue to prosper and to participate in the development of the Arab world and to serve its clients.

As far as the Arab countries are concerned their real strength lies in their solidarity. This is their only shield against the perils encountered by them and the only path which will lead to the recovery of their land usurped by international Zionism. It is imperative on the Arabs to join forces and to resolve their differences and avoid disputes so that the unified struggle will continue for the best interest of the Arab nation.

It is regrettable to note that the situation in Lebanon has not yet come back to normal. We hope that reason will soon prevail so that all Lebanese citizens may cooperate in their endeavours to restore their country's stability and prosperity.

*Abdul Majeed Shoman
Chairman of the Board of Directors*

ARAB BANK LTD.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st. 1978

	1978 JD	1977 JD
OPERATING INCOME		
INTEREST RECEIVED	51,078,089	36,875,260
COMMISSIONS	14,519,072	16,201,171
INCOME FROM EXCHANGE	3,301,078	5,095,669
OTHER INCOME	5,546,056	4,882,297
	<u>74,444,295</u>	<u>63,054,397</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES & PROVISIONS		
STAFF SALARIES & COMPENSATION, DEPRECIATION, INTEREST PAID, TAXES & OTHER EXPENSES	61,429,895	50,854,387
NET PROFIT FOR APPROPRIATION	13,014,400	12,200,000
DEDUCT :		
TRANSFER TO STATUTORY RESERVE	1,300,000	1,250,000
TRANSFER TO GENERAL RESERVE	3,250,000	3,750,000
TRANSFER TO VOLUNTARY RESERVE	3,250,000	3,250,000
UNDIVIDED PROFIT	2,449,900	1,522,625
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	2,764,500	2,427,375
ALLOCATIONS PROPOSED :		
DIVIDENDS	2,750,000	2,420,000
DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION	14,500	7,375

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE ARAB BANK LTD.

We have examined the Combined Balance Sheet of the Arab Bank Ltd. (a Jordanian Public Shareholding Co.) as at December 31, 1978 and the related Combined Statement of Profit and Loss for the year then ended. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records kept at the Bank's Head Office and Branches and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances and to the extent allowed by the law in force in the countries where the Bank is operating. We have previously examined and reported on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1977.

The Bank maintains proper books and records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Arab Bank Ltd. as at December 31, 1978 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with the Law and with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. We recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements and adopt the proposal of the Board of Directors to declare a dividend of JD 2,500 per share.

Amman, Jordan
January 23, 1979

SABA & CO.

ARAB BANK LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1978

ASSETS

	1978 JD	1977 JD
CASH IN HAND & AT BANKS	648,676,571	552,900,410
ITEMS IN TRANSIT (Between Branches)	—	1,315,822
BONDS (Government & Other)	53,988,858	35,759,918
INVESTMENTS (Including Subsidiaries)	7,430,613	6,428,935
BILLS DISCOUNTED	49,534,337	35,341,571
LOANS TO CUSTOMERS	296,107,050	267,025,860
BANK PREMISES (less depreciation)	5,554,429	4,254,402
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT (less depreciation)	1,167,326	970,483
OTHER ASSETS	1,670,151	1,618,580
TOTAL ASSETS	1,064,129,335	903,616,081
CUSTOMERS' LIABILITY ON GUARANTEES, CREDITS & ACCEPTANCES (per contra)	591,232,423	618,330,889
TOTAL	<u>1,655,361,758</u>	<u>1,521,946,970</u>

KHALID ABDUL HAMEED SHOMAN
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

LIABILITIES

	1978 JD	1977 JD
DEPOSITS & OTHER ACCOUNTS	1,010,601,538	861,416
ITEMS IN TRANSIT (Between Branches)	740,772	—
CAPITAL AUTHORIZED & FULLY PAID (JD 10 per share)	11,000,000	11,000
STATUTORY RESERVE	8,550,000	7,250
GENERAL RESERVE	17,000,000	13,750
VOLUNTARY RESERVE	9,500,000	6,250
UNDIVIDED PROFIT	3,972,525	1,522
NET PROFIT (for distribution)	2,764,500	2,422
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,064,129,335	903,616
GUARANTEES, CREDITS & ACCEPTANCES (per contra)	591,232,423	618,330
TOTAL	<u>1,655,361,758</u>	<u>1,521,946</u>

ABDUL MAJEED ABDUL HAMEED SHOMAN
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.D. 1,000,000

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ARAB BANK LTD

Shareholders.

I pleased to report to you the good results of your institution in 1978 achieved in spite of the economic conditions in the Arab countries, uncertainties in the international markets and the changes which occurred in the world's

ARAB ECONOMY

Strengthening of economic activities which had started in the early 1977 in the Arab countries, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula, continued during 1978. Among the reasons was the cut-back in oil prices adopted by the governments concerned in view of inflation. This policy led to a decrease in the prices of commodities compared with the 1976 and 1977 levels.

In oil producing countries, following the decrease in their oil prices, it became necessary to revise their spending policies to make the expenditures more commensurate with their revenues. These countries continued to expand in the basic services, essential industries, especially the petrochemical, gas liquefaction, transport and communications, diversities and ports.

I pleased to point out that your institution has partially financed a large number of Arab development projects whether by credit utilized by its clients or through participations in syndicated loans, as will be detailed later in this Report under the heading "Loans and Bills Discounted".

It is noteworthy that Arab oil producing countries are now placing emphasis on the diversification of their oil exports and the petrochemical and gas liquefaction industries so as to increase their revenues. The fertilizer industry, however, requires attention with a view to developing agriculture and, in particular, the food crisis from which all Arab countries suffer. At present, Arab countries import 53% of their food

This percentage is bound to increase alongside the growth of population which is estimated at 3.3% per annum, average rate of current increase in agricultural production being 2% per annum.

Statistics of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development indicate that Arab wheat producing countries can increase their output by 35% if they use chemical fertilizers in the proper amounts per capita, instead of the currently applied kilograms. The above mentioned proper ratio would bring about a 235% increase in rice production, noting that rice ranks second in the list of agricultural commodities imported by Arab countries.

Gas accompanying oil is abundantly available in the producing countries of Asia and Africa but most of this gas is flared. Not until recent years did the Arab governments, in fact, begin to partially utilize this gas for exportation purposes. However, the larger part of this gas is still being flared and wasted in the Arab world, while countries such as Venezuela, make better use of it.

Arab countries could utilize a portion of the wasted gas to produce fuel and urea which may be used, at a low cost, in the fertilizer industry. Bahrain and Algeria have already adopted this plan. Saudi Arabia is embarking on schemes which aim at raising the volume of utilized gas from 23 percent of gas produced in the eighties.

In large scale development financing, the Arab Funds extend loans and grants to needy Arab as well as Asian states. The number of these Funds and their activity increased considerably during the last few years. For example, in the seventies, there was only one Arab Fund for Arab Economic Development (with potential assets of U.S. \$ 2.5 billion). Now, the number of Arab Funds, in which Arab oil producing countries contribute largely, is 12 with an aggregate capital of U.S. \$ 16 billion and resources of approximately U.S. \$ 25 billion, i.e. ten times those in the early seventies. Total commitments reached about U.S. \$ 7 billion distributed among Arab and other countries in Africa and Asia. The Arab countries' commitment is about 65%, Jordan's share is about 14.3%, Morocco's 13.5%, Algeria's 12.8%, and others 10%. Aid granted during 1978 to developing countries oil producing countries constituted record percentages of national incomes. Qatar, for example, allocated 15% of its aid; United Arab Emirates 12%; and Saudi Arabia on the other hand the contributions of industrialized countries did not exceed 0.3% of their incomes.

It is noteworthy that most of the loans which the Funds granted were earmarked to well studied development projects while the rest had been granted for general purposes, leaving the clients to use them as they wished. It is also noticed that the aggressive increase in the loans directed to industry and, however, there is still a great deal to be desired in the selection and coordination among the projects executed by the countries with a view to having their products and capacities increased as to be sufficient to cover Arab requirements and surplus marketed abroad. Lack of adequate coordination

leads to chaotic production and unhealthy competition and, subsequently, to these projects being susceptible to losses and failure.

Monetary surpluses of the oil producing countries have been constantly declining. This is mainly due to the increase of funds allocated to the developing countries in our area, and the rise in the volume of imports and their continually rising costs resulting from depreciations in the value of the dollar (which still is the currency in which most oil revenues are paid). Moreover oil production decreased and prices almost remained at a standstill during the year under review. Those oil surpluses which stood at 68 billion U.S. dollars in 1974 dropped to 35 billion dollars in 1977 and are estimated at 18 billion dollars in 1978, i.e. less than the total of the surpluses of Japan, Germany and Switzerland. Some Arab oil producing countries are resorting to their reserves or to borrowing from international markets to face their needs.

Consequent on the high rate of inflation in the world and the subsequent rise in the prices of manufactured goods, together with the drop in the dollar exchange rates, the representatives of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided, in their meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 17th December, 1978, to raise oil prices gradually by an aggregate of 14.5% during 1979 : 5% as from 1st January, then by smaller percentages at the beginning of April, July and October. This is equivalent to 10% average increase on a yearly basis.

Taking into account the fact that over 90% of Arab imports comes from foreign countries, it is hoped that there will be a comprehensive planning of the economic and agricultural projects of the Arab countries aiming at increasing production and reducing imports. Arab countries should depend on local production, provided that the products are up to the standards required by Arab consumers. Moreover, Arab countries should expedite full utilization of their vast resources available at present, particularly petroleum, and to increase and diversify their industrial and agricultural projects before this rare opportunity disappears. By intensive and well conceived utilization, they should be able to maintain their economic and social standards after their natural wealth had been depleted, or following any loss in demand due to the emergence of substitutes.

THE WORLD ECONOMY

The industrialized countries in general continued to suffer from unemployment because of slow recovery from the acute recession they sustained in the 1974-1975 period. This has caused inadequate utilization of the economic potentialities and decline in the level of individual investment and in the average growth of world trade, which dropped from 9% in the sixties and early seventies, to about 5% in 1978. Under these circumstances and because of rising costs of imported goods, many countries are beginning to think of applying trade restrictive measures as well as further controls on imports. This, if applied, would hinder the revival of world trade.

The government of the U.S.A. has launched a bitter attack against Japan and West Germany for adopting policies leading to a reduction in domestic demand for imports while their exports to the world markets are steadily increasing. For many years the U.S.A. has been suffering from large deficits in both its trade balance and balance of payments, whereas Germany, Japan and Switzerland have been enjoying surpluses constantly. It is imperative that all countries should cooperate in equilibrating their balances of trade and of payments. Surplus countries should endeavour to raise their economic growth rates and domestic consumption so as to create more demand for imports. Deficit countries, on the other hand, should adopt policies aiming at curtailing public expenditures and curbing inflation. A meeting among the heads of states of those deficit countries was held in England, and another among the heads of the industrialized surplus countries was held in Bonn. The results of these meetings were not as positive as had been expected.

The U.S.A., in particular, has suffered from inflation as its rate went up from 5.8% in 1977 to 9% in 1978.

The table below shows economic indicators for different industrialized countries.

MAJOR CURRENCIES

In the presence of these high inflationary pressures, which dominated most industrialized countries, together with unstable economic conditions and continued speculation in the international money markets, exchange rates of major currencies have been subject to wide scale fluctuations, a matter which directly affects the developing countries. The U.S. dollar, in particular, suffered a severe setback during 1978. Its exchange rates against major currencies dropped from 2.10 Deutsche marks, 1.99 Swiss francs and 240 Japanese Yen at the beginning of 1978 to D.M. 2.08, SFr. 1.88 and ¥ 206 respectively in mid year. Then it started to take a steep downward trend. In the period from 1st September to 23rd October the U.S. dollar went down by 9.5% against the mark and 5% against the Yen. This led the President of the U.S.A. to announce anti-inflationary guidelines which called for voluntary restraints on the part of unions and companies so that rises in wages and prices would not go up beyond 7% and 6.5% respectively. Further, the American government may relax import restrictions, with a view to increasing competition and reducing prices, should price or wage rises in certain sectors go above the guidelines. These voluntary measures, did not, however, succeed in restoring the world's confidence in the dollar. Under continuing speculative pressures the

exchange rates of the dollar in the international foreign exchange market went steeply down to record low figures such as D.M. 1.72 SFr. 1.47, and ¥ 175.50. Gold price went up to a peak record and reached over 245 U.S. \$ per ounce. Consequently, the President of the U.S.A. adopted a new anti-inflation package for the salvation of the dollar which was put into effect in November, 1978. The main proposals of the package are :

- Raising the discount rate by 1%, to become 9.5%.
- Doubling the loans obtained, on a swap basis, by the Federal Reserve Bank from central banks in West Germany, Switzerland and Japan, in the currencies of these countries, from the equivalent of U.S. \$ 7.6 billion to U.S. \$ 15 billion.
- Drawing U.S. \$ 3 billion in mark and yen from the U.S. reserve in the International Monetary Fund in addition to selling the equivalent of U.S. \$ 2 billion, in SDRs, to obtain funds in Deutsche mark, Swiss franc and Japanese yen.
- Doubling gold sales to the extent of 1.5 million ounces monthly as from December, 1978.
- Increasing by 2%, the portion of savings deposits which commercial banks should hold in reserve, thus leading to the withdrawal of about U.S. \$ 3 billion from circulation.
- Issuing treasury bills, denominated in foreign currencies, up to the equivalent of U.S. \$ 10 billion.

These measures would provide the U.S.A. with the equivalent of U.S. \$ 30 billion in other major foreign currencies, to support the dollar. This was welcomed in all financial circles and has led to an immediate improvement in the dollar's performance in the international markets: its rates of exchange reached DM 1.93 and SFr. 1.74 at the beginning of December. Then they dropped again, following the rise in oil prices, to DM 1.84 and SFr. 1.64 on 19th December, 1978.

To bring about stability to exchange rates, countries suffering from deficits in their balances of payments should reduce their expenditure and curb inflation in cooperation with major industrialized countries. Moreover, measures on an international scale should be adopted so as to control the sizable amounts of short money available in the international financial markets and to check speculation in those markets so that exchange rates of major currencies do not remain subject to sharp and sudden fluctuations. No doubt the industrialized countries are not alone in having their positions and products affected by the instability of exchange rates. The economic growth of the developing countries will also be adversely affected by such instability and the gap between them and the industrialized countries will be widened.

Throughout the year, interest rates in the European international money markets increased in general, especially on amounts deposited in pound sterling and U.S. dollar. The rates on Deutsche mark deposits remained, however, low. Swiss franc deposits attracted meagre or no interest and were at times subject to negative rates of interest.

In the meetings held in Berlin in July, 1978 of the member states in the European Economic Community (EEC) a new scheme, The European Monetary System, was worked out in order to create a stable monetary belt in Europe. This scheme envisages the return to par values with rates fixed among the countries concerned in such a way which does not allow fluctuations except within narrow limits. Around the middle of December, representatives of EEC member countries met in Brussels and agreed, except for Britain, to adopt this scheme as from the beginning of 1979 for a trial period of two years after which it would be established in final form. The reason for Britain's refraining from the application of this scheme was the fear that it might cause a rise in the rate of inflation and in the pressure on the pound sterling. Later differences arose between France and Germany on agricultural matters and the application of the scheme was postponed. Arab countries particularly the Gulf states, should emulate the EEC countries in working out among themselves an appropriate monetary system: the position and economic situation of the Arab Gulf States are more favourable for such a system than is the case with the EEC countries.

COMMENTS ON THE 1978 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Total Assets reached JD 1,064,129,335 at the end of 1978 — an increase of JD 160,513,254 (17.8%) over the previous year's figure of JD 903,616,081. Balance Sheet Total rose to JD 1,855,361,758 which exceeds the 1977 figure by JD 133,414,788. This Total represents the consolidated figures of our branches after conversion of foreign currencies into Jordan dinar at exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1978. These exchange rates differ from those applied in 1977 and, had the latter continued to be used, a larger total would have been shown.

Although we have a significant influence on some of our affiliates we have not included their figures in the consolidated statements.

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The Paid-up Capital still stands at the previous year's figure of JD 11,000,000 divided into 1,100,000 shares.

JD 7,800,000 was allocated from the year's Net Profit to the various Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet as follows:

- JD 1,300,000 to the Statutory Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 8,550,000.
- JD 3,250,000 to the General Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 17,000,000.
- JD 3,250,000 to the Voluntary Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 9,500,000.
- JD 2,449,900 as Undivided Profit; its balance now stands at JD 3,972,525.

In consideration of all these allocations the Shareholders' Equity now amounts to about JD 50 million (previous year: JD 40 million).

The amount of JD 2,750,000 has been recommended by the Board as dividends to the Shareholders. Other details concerning these dividends will be given later under the heading « Allocation of Net Profit ».

Adequate amounts have also been retained in order to further strengthen the financial structure of your institution and to enable it to meet contingencies.

DEPOSITS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

As you will see from the accompanying Balance Sheet, Deposits and Other Accounts increased from JD 861,416,081 in 1977 to JD 1,010,601,538 at the end of 1978 (an increase of JD 149,185,457 or 17.3%).

However this does not represent the actual extent of growth in Deposits since foreign currencies, mainly the U.S. dollar, form a high percentage of the deposits kept with our branches in London, Paris, the two offshore units in Manama (Bahrain) and Cairo and some other branches. As the exchange rates of the dollar dropped substantially by the end of the year in comparison with those at the end of 1977, our overall total of Deposits was affected. Hence the real increase in Deposits is larger than is shown in the Balance Sheet.

We hope that the confidence in your institution, manifested by the growth of Deposits, will continue unabated in the years to come.

CASH IN HAND AND AT BANK

The balance of this item rose to JD 648,676,571—an increase of 17.3% over the year 1977. This represents a high liquidity ratio of 64.2%. If the participations and marketable bonds were added, the ratio would have risen to 70.3%.

LOANS AND BILLS DISCOUNTED

Our branches continued to expand their activities especially in the field of financing vital and important projects in the countries where they operate.

The total of Loans and Bills Discounted at the end of 1978 was JD 345,641,357, which represents an increase of JD 43,273,856 on the previous year's figure; compared with an increase of JD 21,204,906 for 1977 over the preceding year.

Loans include participations in international syndicated loans in the amount of about JD 63 million, of which about JD 40 million or 63.5%, was for projects in the Arab countries.

The Bank acted as manager of the international loan advanced to the Jordan Fertilizer Industry Co. Ltd. for financing their U.S. \$ 314 million venture for the production of fertilizers in Aqaba (Jordan) beginning from 1980. Your institution also subscribed in the U.S. \$ 150 million loan extended to the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction for the implementation of vital projects in Lebanon.

In conjunction with other international banks, the Arab Bank participated in loans extended for the financing of a number of important projects in the Arab countries, such as the expansion of communications facilities and petroleum installations in Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.) as well as expansion work in the cement plant of Ras Al Khaimah (U.A.E.). Among the borrowing institutions of some of these international loans are: The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, ALIA - The Royal Jordanian Airlines, SONATRACH in Algeria and the Qatar Aluminium Co.

The Arab and Morgan Grenfell Finance Co. Ltd., which is 50% owned by the Arab Bank, was among the group of subscribers in these loans and has contributed to the liaison and research effort intended to provide the necessary interface between the lenders and the borrowers.

The following are some important projects undertaken by big entrepreneurs specialized in structural engineering to whom lines of credit have been given by the branches of the Arab Bank:

- 1 — In Jordan : Expansion of the port of Aqaba, expansion of Queen Alia International Airport as well as development of highways, hotels and buildings.
- 2 — In Saudi Arabia : Expansion of the ports of Jeddah and Jubail, construction of new hospitals, educational institutions, government buildings and private buildings as well as installation work in the Jeddah desalination plant.
- 3 — In Qatar : Petrochemicals production plant, aluminium production plant as well as development of the housing sector.
- 4 — In Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.) : Gas liquefaction plant, desalination plant, construction of a sports city as well as development of seaports, airports and the building sector.
- 5 — In Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah (U.A.E.) : Cement production, aluminium production as well as development of ports, hotels, hospitals and buildings.
- 6 — In Oman : Production of asbestos pipes, production of polythene pipes as well as development of highways and buildings.
- 7 — In Egypt : Textile factory and sugar factory as well as land reclamation schemes.
- 8 — In Tunisia : Development of petroleum production, tourism and the industrial sector.
- 9 — In Morocco : Development of phosphates production, tourism and the industrial sector.

ARAB BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHED IN 1930

ANNUAL REPORT

1978

10 — In Algeria, Development of petroleum production, tourism and the industrial sector

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS, GUARANTEES AND ACCEPTANCES

The balance of this item totalled JD 591,032,423 as compared with JD 615,330,889 in 1977.

The following table shows the volume of import and export transactions executed by the branches of the bank and the guarantees issued by them at the request of customers and banks during each of the last six years:

	(JD Million)				
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Imports & Exports	150	327	561	726	654
Guarantees	49	65	124	662	398
					327

The 1978 balance of this item is composed of JD 201,664,220 for outstanding documentary credits, JD 275,319,621 for guarantees still in effect (of which JD 105,453 was issued at the request of other local and foreign banks) and JD 14,045,612 for acceptances covering import transactions for customers' accounts.

EARNINGS AND EXPENSES

The total of Earnings increased by JD 11,369,895 (18.1%). from JD 63,054,397 in 1977 to JD 74,444,295 in 1978. This is attributed to the expansion of the bank's business in the areas where our branches operate.

Expenses including interest paid, depreciations, provisions, taxes and other expenses, as well as salaries and fringe benefits including the provident fund, the medical expenses and the staff indemnity on termination of service, were also up by JD 10,575,488, reaching JD 61,429,895 at year's end. After deduction of all those expenses, a Net Profit of JD 13,014,400 was left over for appropriation.

ALLOCATION OF NET PROFIT

Your Board recommends that the Net Profit be appropriated as follows:

- JD 7,800,000 to the various Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet
- JD 2,449,900 as Undivided Profit.
- JD 2,750,000 as dividends, at the rate of JD 2,500 per share. These dividends will be paid to the Shareholders as from 30th April, 1979, and
- JD 14,500 as remuneration to the Members of the Board according to their attendance at the meetings held during the year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the Annual General Meeting held on 31st March 1978, a new Board of Directors was elected for a term of four years. The new Board is composed of: Aboul Majeed Aboul Hameed Shoman (Chairman), Khalid Aboul Hameed Shoman (Deputy Chairman), Muhammad Yusif Tahiri, Aboul Wahab Sheikh (Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Saudi Arabia), Meroum M. Beidoun, Baqr Khalid Al-Bazz, George Suleiman Tannous, Fouad Kamel Jabb, Munib R. Massri and Adel Hamid A. Shoman (Members).

The Board also appointed Mr. Ishaq Gattaneh as Secretary of the Board of Directors. Mr. Gattaneh will also continue to serve in his original capacity as a manager in our Head Office.

We mention with deep regret the loss of the Board Member, Muhammed Yassin Tahiri, who died in London in August, 1978. Mr. Tahiri will be remembered for his long service as a Board Member, from 1945 until 1978. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

NEW BRANCHES

On 20th February, 1978 our Marks branch in Amman (Jordan) was opened for business. Our Paris branch located in the French capital's most important business centre, the Champs-Elysées, commenced business on 20th October, 1978. We hope that this branch will play an active role in the promotion of Arab-French trade relations and wish the new branches success and progress.

THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommends to the Shareholders the following:

- 1 — Review of the minutes of the 48th meeting of the General Assembly.
- 2 — Approval of the contents of the Board's Annual Report and discharge of the Members of the Board of any liabilities connected with the year 1978.
- 3 — Approval of the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1978.
- 4 — Approval of the Auditors' Report for the year 1978.
- 5 — Approval of the Directors' recommendation to distribute dividends at JD 2,500 per share (25% of the share par value).
- 6 — Election of Auditors for the year 1979, and the fixing of fees.

In conclusion the Board of Directors thanks the executive employees of the Head Office and branches for their sincere efforts during 1978. The Board also wishes to thank all clients and correspondents of the Arab Bank Ltd. in all parts of the world for continued confidence and support.

ARAB BANK LIMITED

SISTER INSTITUTIONS, SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	TELEX	CABLE ADDRESS
ARAB BANK (OVERSEAS) LIMITED			ARAB CH
ZURICH TALACKER 21	011-21-31-18	62179-54056	ARABIBANK
GENEVA 1, Quai de l'Europe	011-21-31-22-43	62585	ARABIBANK
ARAB BANK MAROC			
CASABLANCA P.O.B. 101	06315-3	11-942	ARABMAROC
PABAT, P.O.B. 440	06314	31032	ARABMAROC
THE ARAB & MORGAN GRENFELL FINANCE CO. LIMITED			
LONDON, St. MARGARET'S HOUSE, 9, IPONMONGER LANE	01-615-7451	566318	ARAMORFIN
LONDON EC2V 8EY ENGLAND			LONDON-EC2
ARAB BANK (NIGERIA) LIMITED			
LAGOS, P.O.B. 1114	21921	11436 BINKARB	BANKARABI
MANO, P.O.B. 318	32812	77102 BINKARB	BANKARABI
APAPA, P.O.B. 637	42382		BANKARABI
ISOLO (Mushin) LAGOS, P.O.B. 1083			
IBADAN			BANKARABI
KAZAURE (Kano) P.O.B. 315	3081-2	77102 BINKARB	BANKARABI
GWARZO (Kano) P.O.B. 312	3081-2	77102 BINKARB	BANKARABI
UNION DE BANQUES ARABES ET EUROPÉENNES (UBAE) S.A.			UBAELUX
LUXEMBOURG, P.O.B. 116	(00352) 42641, 24481	1757	
FRANKFURT/MAIN, P.O.B. 4487	(0611) 2101-1	2847, 2874	UBAELU LU
		414249, 414930	UBAE
UNION DE BANQUES ARABES ET FRANÇAISES (UBAF)			
PARIS, P.O.B. 125	747-11-45	610640, 610334	UBAFRA
LE FRANCE 4, RUE ANCELLE-92202 NEUILLY-S/SEINE			
UBAF ARAB AMERICAN BANK NEW YORK			
345 PARK AVE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022	(212) 826-1120	234589	ARABAMBANK
ARAB JAPANESE FINANCE LIMITED (UBAN)			
HONG KONG, P.O.B. 9917	5-261102/6	75386	UBANARAB

GENERAL MANAGEMENT : AMMAN - JORDAN, P.O.B. 62 PHONES : 38161 - 9, TELEX : ARABNK JO 1230 - CABLE : BANCARABI

BRANCH	P.O.B.	PHONES	TELEX	BRANCH	P.O.B.	PHONES	TELEX
JORDAN				AFGHAN. GULF			
AMMAN	8 & 68	35151-6	ARABNK JO 1272 and 1620	Bahrain	355	255988	ARABNK GJ 0232
JABAL AMMAN (Amman)	2711	44124		MUHAMMAD	22295	322425	
JABAL HUSSEIN (Amman)	8348	25137		QUDAIRYA (Manama)	385	258438	ARABNK GJ 0242
LUWEIBDEH (Amman)	9105	32873	ARABNK JO 1854	OFFSHORE BANKING UNIT (Manama)	813	56598-9	
MAHATTA ST. (Amman)	6364	51375-7	ARABNK JO 1433	QATAR	172	321570-3	ARABNK DH 4202
WAHDAT (Amman)	16067	71122	ARABNA JO 1824	DOHA	3058	321850-1	ARABTKS DH 4480
MARAKA (Amman)	15450	56266		ALKHALEEJ ST. (Doha)			
AQABA	37	3545-6		UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
IRBID	16	2951-2		ABU DHABI	875	41131	ARABNAJAH 2257
ZERKA	145	63381-2	ARABNK JO 421	SHAIKH ZAYD ST. (Abu Dhabi)	3085	23526	ARABNAJAH 3310
LEBANON				ALAIN	1212	41328	ARABNK EM 3522
BEIRUT	1015	250240-8	ARABNK 20734 - LE and 20789 - LE	AJMAN	17	22431	
RAS BEIRUT	5187	340630-1	ARABNK 22807 - LE	DUBAI	11364	228848-8	ARABNK EM 45126
TRIPOLI	379	620120-4	ARASIT 21815 - LE	DEIRA	1650	22121-3	ARABNK EM 45423
BAB TABBANEH (Tripoli)	379	626122-3		DUBAI	3285	432812	ARABNK EM 45933
MINA (Tripoli)	379	602383		RAS ALKHAIMAH	20	28437-8	ARABNK RR 9152
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT	1015	250240-8	ARSOPIG 21172 - LE (Not for banking transactions)	SHARJAH	130	22333-4	ARABNK SH 66223
GENERAL MANAGEMENT-BEIRUT		251151-9		UMM ALQAIWAIN	328	66047	
SAUDI ARABIA				FUJAIRAH	300	22050	
RIYAD	26	24111	201C26 ARABNK SJ 201799	YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	1301-3812	5558-4841	ARABNK YE 2239
JEDDAH	344	23349	401099 ARABNK SJ	HODEIDA			ARABNK YE 523
ALKHOBAR	15*	43488	670253 ARABNK SJ				
DAMMAM	18	23440	601032 ARABNK SJ	EGYPT	2006	49217-9	ARABNK YE 22716 and 22761
MECCA	238	43455-6	440020 ARABNK SJ	TUNISIA	520	258848-1	ARABNK 12293
Oman				UNITED KINGDOM			
MUSCAT	991	722831-4	ARABNK MB 3285	2 Branches in London	138	(01) 506 7801-9	884359, 887419
RUWI	5010	702536		THE CITY	4NE	(01) 408 1505	884429, 887110
MATRAH	3169	734378-9		PARK LANE			ARABNK LDN 24985
SALALA	8891	460005		FRANCE			
				PARIS	7233818-7233822		ARABANK PARIS 442 443 F and 442 443 T

* Doha Airport
BRANCHES TEMPORARILY CLOSED: Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah and Tulkarm.

A facelift for the ambassador?

By Kevin Rafferty

Mr. B.M. Birla, head of Hindustan Motors, India's biggest car maker, is looking at British and West German technology as part of his plan to remodel and upgrade the Ambassador, the country's best-selling car.

He wants to produce a new Indian car for the 1980s, but whether he will be allowed to do it will depend on a variety of political and personal factors which are symptomatic of India's massive industrial problems.

He said in an interview at his offices in Calcutta that the timing "depends on the government. We have not yet made a formal application to buy foreign technology, as we want to see what the government's attitude is."

It is clear from political sources that the Janata Gov-

ernment is facing pressures to nationalise Hindustan Motors. The French have already jumped in, as if they half expect nationalisation, by offering help with the Indian motor industry as part of the official aid programme.

The demand for nationalisation of Hindustan Motors comes from a variety of sources. Some are opposed to the size and the strength of the Birla family empire.

Companies with which the family is associated read like a list of what's what in

check, check

Skateboarding: The hottest craze in town

By Ron Cathell
Al to the Jordan Times

N. April 3 - Skateboarding latest craze in town, is g like brushfire. Spring ved and boys and girls, ar to 14 years of age, are se and limb to race down streets and sidewalks an on their skateboards. e kids have quickly dis this "city of seven hills" suited to this sport, which ed to have originated years ago in the coastal southern California as a alternative to surfing.

he surfer, the skateboarder, a thrill from the freedom ity, the speed, the gratif being in top form, and of a manoeuvre in true one needs for an after fun is a bit of physical tion, daring and imag slight hill and, of course, sard.

I toy and sport shop in skateboard, ranging in JD 6 to JD 8 depending brand (although there o be only a tiny variation ality of different brands)

Jabal Hussein area, five ers report that they each u. 20 skateboards during month of February. Sales over 50 per cent in id the shopkeepers say expect this spring and to witness an unpre boom in the sale of boards which, along with are the hottest selling

with this new "in" sport possess the appropriate ll over town, especially riddle to upper-middle s of Jabal Hussein, Jabal h. Shmeisani and Jabal where this latest craze is kids are seen proudly g their athletic ard" shirts with a blazoned across their

the new craze brings pending dangers as the ed skateboarders steer han crowded sidewalks streets. In Jabal Luweib, not uncommon to see a rder zoom between rs and flash across the ectly in the path of cars while drivers s tyres to miss them. In sein, the sidewalks from re towards downtown come skateboard rung daredevil slalom es and markers, barely edestrians. Fridays and the two days when kids school and families go or pleasure riding, are dangerous times as ders attempt to share y congested streets and And with over half of population under fifteen for the city's urfaces could become

early consideration for of the young athletes, true sporting spirit, the f the Haya Arts Centre, Sawalha, decided it was to do something to get off the streets and Just a few months ago ed a plan to build the n skateboard park in the st, which will be located a Centre next to the arts



Everybody enjoys a good race, and these skateboarders are no exception. The leader is wearing a special skateboarding jersey fitted with shoulder and elbow pads. There has never been a serious skateboarding injury at the Haya Centre.

buildings. The smooth-surfaced cement playground should be ready for the streaking skateboarders within two weeks. "I would love to get every kid to be a member here and not to skate in the streets," Mr. Sawalha said.

The decision to go ahead with the cement playground was also prompted by the heavy traffic of sidewalk surfers at the Haya Centre. Over the past several months the growing number of rip-roaring skateboarders blazing through the inner courtyard of the arts buildings has made the area a red-alert zone. Anyone who has tried to walk through the courtyard on a Sunday afternoon knows how treacherous the short journey can be, as four-wheeled athletes come flying out of nowhere, criss-crossing back and forth and swerving around big-tiled pillars.

Because of the unsafe condition—though no major injuries have been reported except for the usual scrapes and bruises — aluminium fencing was recently put up to confine the skateboarders to a narrow area along the top of the steps that leads into the courtyard. Even though this greatly limits their movement, it's still one of the best places in town to ride, the kids say, because the surface is smooth. The only other alternative is to skateboard in the streets near their homes or their neighbourhood sidewalks, if they are fortunate to live on streets with paved sidewalks.

They know the danger involved, but to them the thrill of riding is worth the risk. This danger has been compounded in the last month in Shmeisani and Jabal Hussein by the addition of dividers in the centre of main thoroughfares, causing traffic to funnel through narrow residential streets to get to intersections where cars can turn onto the thoroughfares.

The skateboarders have been watching the construction of the skateboard park with high enthusiasm. "The kids are going absolutely mad waiting for it," Mr. Sawalha said. They know the park will have a terrific feature, "the dip." In the middle of the 25 metre-wide circular park will be a bowl about one metre deep, and 13 metres from rim to rim, with ramps leading into it and banked sides that will enable the board riders to perform graceful leaning turns and tricky manoeuvres. Zipping down a ramp into "the dip," a rider can pick up speed and shoot up a banked wall, centrifugal force pressing him to the surface as he turns at the top to come zooming down.

The safety rules will probably be most popular among the parents. Skateboarders in the streets or on walkways seldom wear helmets or pads, even though shopkeepers claim they sell about five suits of safety armour for every 20 skateboards sold. A safety helmet made of plastic and full pads cost about JD 6. Skateboarders at the park will have to wear safety equipment, they either play safe or they don't play at all. The parents will have to bear the expense of the safety equipment," Mr. Sawalha said. "But this is no expense really, compared to the expense of a broken bone, or injury that may leave their child deformed."

Besides the stringent safety rules, after the skateboarders have developed their own traffic pattern, certain codes of behaviour will be adopted by the club specially tailored to fit the conduct of the kids. The idea is to keep the activity orderly through discipline. "You've got to have discipline. You've got to have regulations," Mr. Sawalha said. "You can only teach kids responsibility through discipline. But we don't believe in very strict discipline. We like to be relaxed and have fun when working with kids."

One of the most incredible things about the park is the speed with which it is being built. The Royal Army Corp of Engineers is responsible for that. Using army muscle and heavy equipment, the corp has worked diligently to finish the project within a few short months.

Since the Haya Centre is a charitable organisation, it can't afford to hire a big construction company. Mr. Sawalha usually contacts his philanthropist friends when he needs help. He thought the idea for a skateboard park was so good, and he believed in it so much, that he presented the plan to His Majesty King Hussein. King Hussein heartily approved of the idea and asked the army to help out. Mr. Sawalha explained his idea to his friends in the army and they went to work immediately. All the major work is now completed. The park only needs a fine smooth coating of cement and time for it to dry, and the kids will be in business.

Once the club and park are in full operation and all design and regulation details are ironed out,



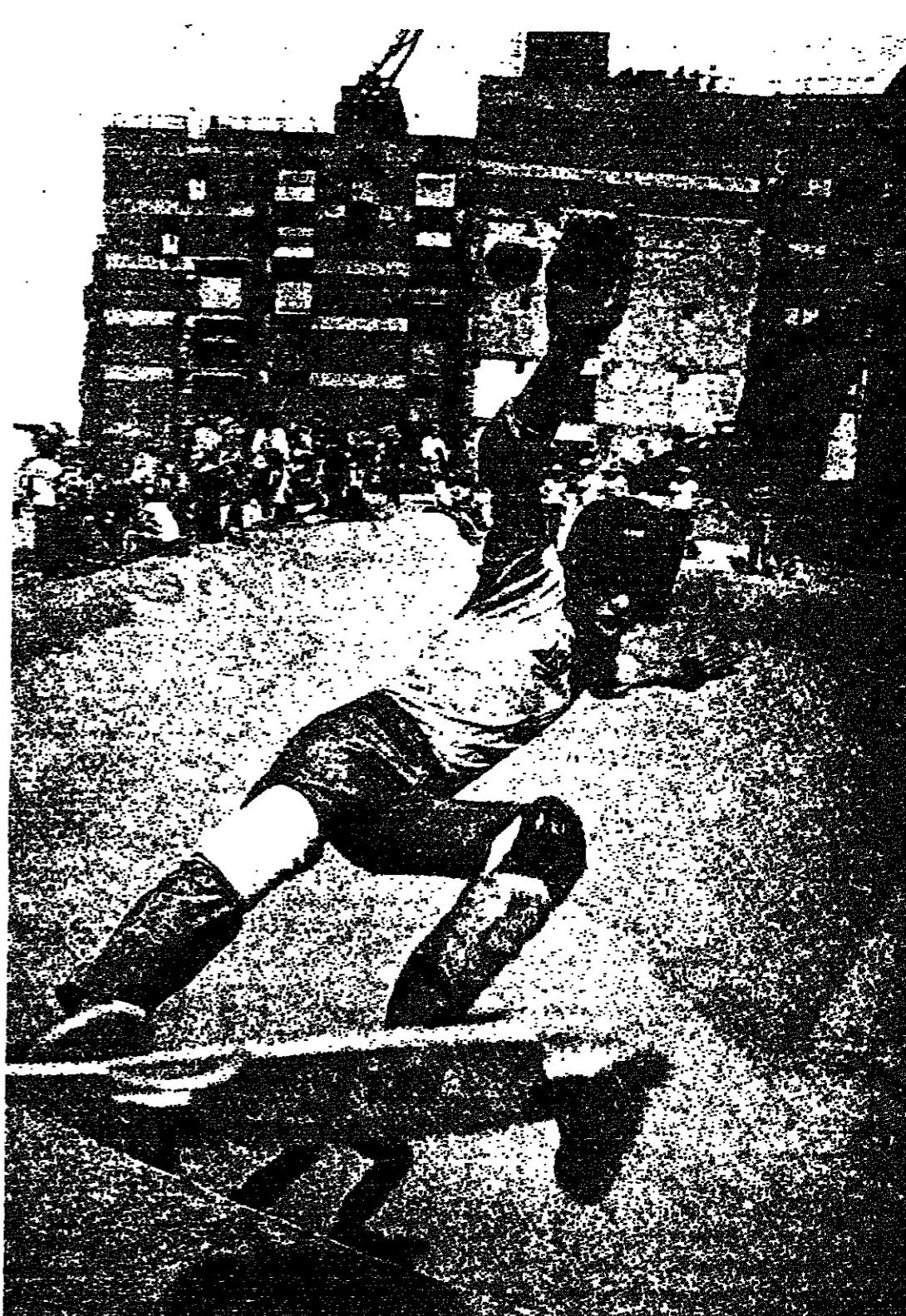
One of the favourite places to skateboard is Maxim Circle where this board rider practices a few stunts amid pedestrians. They usually give the skateboarders plenty of room.



At Haya Arts centre, pedestrian and skateboarder collisions are not a rare occasion as the boy on the left surprisingly discovers.

Mr. Sawalha wants to invite an expert skateboarder from Europe or the United States to put on exhibitions for Amman's junior skateboarders and enthusiasts, and teach the youngsters a few fancy techniques. Until then, he hopes it may be possible to get some films on skateboarding in cooperation with foreign cultural centres here.

In addition to the skateboard park, the Haya Centre is building a children's traffic circle on the



A scene at Skate City in London shows the type of park built specially for skateboard enthusiasts. The boy riding the rim of the bowl is wearing the mandatory safety gear — helmet, thick gloves, soft



shoes and elbow and knee pads — which is required in Western countries. Kids in the back exercise proper skateboarding etiquette by queuing for their turns in the concrete bowl.



Girls also get into the act at Haya Arts Centre. Look out fallen. She may be skating circles around you by add spring.



ck of skateboarders needs no start signal to tell them to "go." They especially like skating at the top of the Haya Centre Art building because the surface is very



r of the Haya Arts Centre Nabil Sawalha holds a clay model "dip" he designed that will be in the centre of the skateboard, which is under construction and expected to be finished two weeks. "The dip" will allow skateboarders to zoom its ramps and perform a variety of tricks on its banked sides.



line-up for Saturday's U.K. games

JORDAN, April 6 (R)--Roger Osborne, who scored the goal in last season's F.A. Cup final, is named in the six squad of 14 for their First Division football match Leeds tomorrow. Osborne collapsed after scoring inst Arsenal at Wembley and injuries have since kept out of the team. But Ipswich will be short of striker J. Marin, and the young central defender Terry cher. Leeds will be at full strength.

Wolverhampton, knocked out of the F.A. Cup semi-final by Arsenal last week and still needing a few points to secure their First Division future, will be unchanged for the successive match for their visit to Manchester City. Their hosts are plagued with sickness as well as injury. African-born Colin Viljoen has damaged his ankle and goalkeeper Joe Corrigan (left). Willie Donachie (ee) and Paul Power (right) are all under treatment. England winger Peter Barnes and Polish star Kazimierzyna have influenza though Deyna may still be fit to play.

West Bromwich Albion, still in eager pursuit of the title leaders Liverpool, have three injury doubts for their match against Everton, level with them on points but having played five matches more. But Albion hope that all ee--Brendan Batson (groin) midfield goalscorer Tony Brown (back) and striker Ally Brown (knee)--will survive fitness tests. Both Browns missed the 4-0 midweek victory over Manchester City. But they will be without Len Atkinson in the midfield. He is serving a one-match suspension.

Brian Greenhoff, whose calf injury kept him out of the Manchester United team which beat Liverpool in their play-off semifinal two nights ago, will not be fit for the match at Norwich. United's cup final opponents, Arsenal, have Steve Walford in place of the suspended left back Jimmy Nelson at Liverpool but David Prince, who missed yesterday's match against Coventry, returns to the midfield place of Mark Heeley. Liam Brady's injured knee still keeps him out.

South Africans may run in Boston Marathon

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 6 (AP)--Five South African runners are apparently entering the famous Boston Marathon later this month but fear of anti-apartheid demonstrations has made the subject top secret here. The Rand Daily Mail newspaper reported Wednesday that the five runners--Willie Farrell, Brian Chamberlain, Johnny Halberstadt, Bernard Rose and Kevin Shaw--will run in "one of the world's most famous marathon races during Easter." The Boston Marathon is scheduled for April 16, the day after Easter Sunday. But sports writer Sam Mirvis wasn't about to tell the Mail's readers just where the South Africans will be running. "We prefer not to divulge the name of the Marathon and the country in which it is being staged in case the South Africans meet with some difficulties," Mirvis wrote.

South Africa is banned from participating in virtually all international sporting events because of the government's policy of race segregation. Anti-apartheid demonstrations are not uncommon when South African athletes do participate in an international sporting competition. For example, a provincial rugby team from South Africa is currently on tour in France and Spain under a disguised name.

Swiss soccer championship results

GENEVA, April 6 (R)--Results of matches in the 21st round of the Swiss National Soccer League Championships played Wednesday night were: FC Basle one, Nordstern Basle one; Lausanne Sports zero. Young Boys Berne one; Sion two, Neuchatel Xamax two; Chiasso one, St. Gallen zero; Servette Geneva zero, Grasshoppers Zurich zero; FC Zurich six, Chenois Geneva zero.

Will California fall apart in 1982?

By Daniel Nelson

LONDON--When Jupiter aligns with Mars and the Moon is in the Seventh House, the Age of Aquarius begins. Astrologers believe it will be a period of love and peace. But some scientists fear it could begin with a catastrophic event--a major earthquake in southern California that could destroy Los Angeles.

A new presentation at the London Planetarium warns of the possibility of such a catastrophe.

The show, "Omens", looks at superstitious beliefs about planetary movements, and points out that in three years a rare alignment occurs: for the first time in 179 years all the planets in the solar system will be on the same side of the sun.

"Those who believe in the astrological powers of the stars and planets will read in that line-up a warning of a coming catastrophe," intones narrator John Ebdon, the Planetarium director and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"They may be right - but for the wrong reason. A catastrophe may occur, and if it does,

according to some scientists, the planets will be the culprits. In perfect alignment they will present the full might of their combined gravitational pull on the sun..."

The alarm was sounded six years ago in a book called "The Jupiter Effect." Written by Dr. John Gribbin, a former member of the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge, and Dr. Stephen Plagemann, who was then working for the U.S. National Aeronautical and Space Association, it argued that the unusual position of the planets in 1982 would trigger off a series of earth tremors and a major upheaval of the San Andreas Fault in California.

Even some who doubt the theory do not reject it outright. Dr. Peter Smith, reader in earth sciences at Britain's Open University, says he favours open debate on the subject and points out that there is a tendency in science "to ignore

sun's activity will be at a peak, streams of charged particles will flow out past the planets and there will be a pronounced effect on the overall circulation and on weather patterns. "Finally, the last link in the chain, movements of large masses of the atmosphere will agitate regions of geologic instability into life. There will be many earthquakes, large and small, around susceptible regions of the globe."

The U.S. Department of Geology looked into the claim when the book was published, as did several American Universities. But Dr. John Divine of the Department's earthquake studies section said, "We checked historical records and found no earthquake activity to correspond with past occurrences of this planetary alignment."

"We also looked at possible effects and decided that they were minor compared with the great stresses caused by movement of the continental plates. We took it seriously, but generally we have discounted the theory."

Dr. Gribbin admits they received "a thumbs down from the geological Establishment," but remains convinced of the correctness of the theory: "If I was writing the book now, I'd be more positive in some ways. There is more evidence that planets affect earth activity."

Even some who doubt the theory do not reject it outright. Dr. Peter Smith, reader in earth sciences at Britain's Open University, says he favours open debate on the subject and points out that there is a tendency in science "to ignore

fault is at its height."

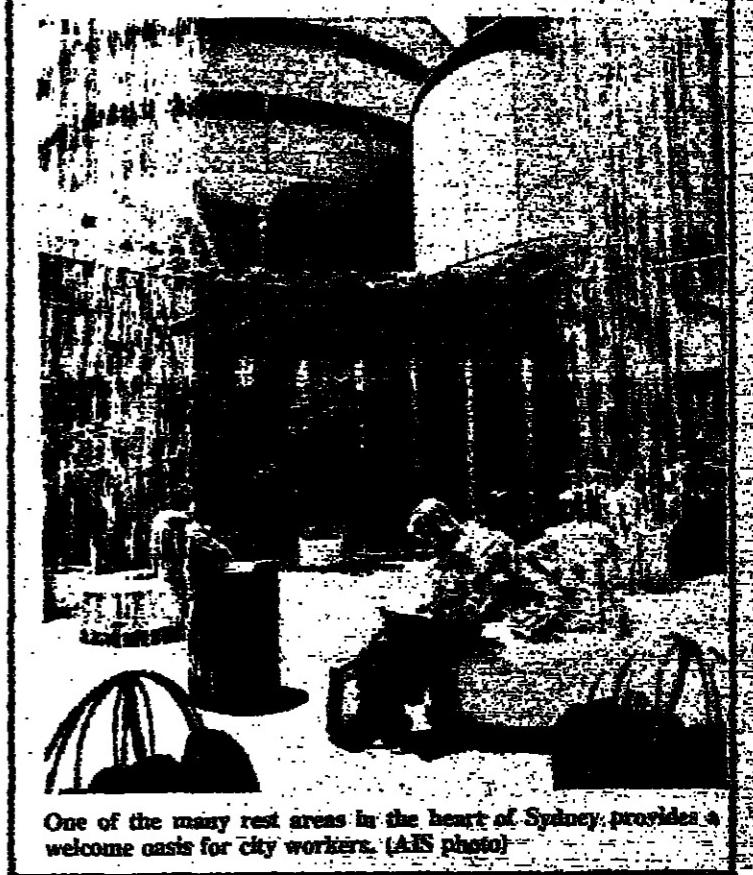
"In any case, records show that there was activity at the time of the last alignment, just as there is now a steady build-up of sunspot activity, exactly as we forecast although at that time the generally accepted forecasts were for a peak in 1979."

He also admits to being increasingly excited as 1982 approaches. "But we are not ghouls, hoping everyone will die. We'll find out what is right in a couple of years and if we are wrong we will breathe a sigh of relief."

"One thing I'm sure of - we won't be in California at that time."

FINANCIAL TIMES
NEWS-FEATURES

Australian oasis



One of the many rest areas in the heart of Sydney provides a welcome oasis for city workers. (AP photo)

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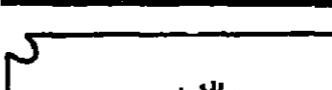
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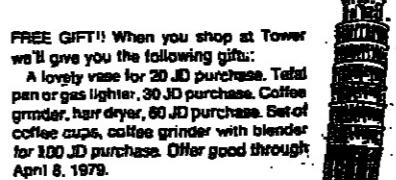
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LAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1979

YOUR DAILY OROSCOPE

Carroll Righter Institute

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study every aspect of your plan—how best to improve it in the future. Into arguments with others of power over some notion that you do not like.

(Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't make radical home, but improve conditions there instead. Actual and all turns out well.

(May 21 to June 21) Important that you drive be careful of what you say and avoid trouble. Those who can further your ambitions.

KIDS (June 22 to July 21) A good time video you avoid heavy expenditures. Analyze in life and know where you are headed.

y 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid making any radical your lifestyle and this becomes a good period

those whom you like and have a good newcomers for now.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You feel restricted in some do nothing about it now. Talk over important others, but take no action as yet. Enjoy social

Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with friends, y to change them to your liking. Being social stick to whatever is conservative. Avoid taking back home with you.

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be tactful in stating your wife. Back bigwigs and gain their favor. Take relax.

ARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into a promis-tet and forget a problem you can do little. Making new contacts is wise. They can be in your advancement.

DRN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Carry through with a ty you have assumed without making any gages. Do nothing that could harm the tranquillity at home. Show you are loyal.

US (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Leave partnership af- instead of making radical changes you have in e safe. Take part in a civic matter so you and be helped.

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have work to do so trip you want to take and keep out of trou- ch done. Forget any new temptations that ou in the wrong direction.

REN BRIDGE

L GOREN SHARIF
to Tribune
vulnerable, as
A965 ♦ A1032

support.
Nevertheless, you must make some bid to show your power, and we would select the jump spades as the lesser of evils. After all, your three-card support couldn't be better.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ A92 ♦ 10762 ♦ 92 ♦ A643
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♦ Double. Pass 1 ♦

Pass 2 ♦. Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—By first doubling and then raising your suit; partner has shown an excellent hand. Since you were close to a jump to two hearts as your first turn, spare partner any further decisions. Jump to four hearts.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ K1052 ♦ AQJ92 ♦ K6 ♦ 7

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner must have the king of hearts for his jump to two no trump and has indicated three-card support by taking a preference to three spades. The only remaining question is how many aces he holds, so we would wheel out a Blackwood four no trump to ascertain our slam possibilities.

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ J10643 ♦ A852 ♦ 96 ♦ J74

Partner opens the bidding with two diamonds. What do you respond?

A.—A positive suit response to a forcing two-bid should show a suit of reasonable quality—a five-carder to the queen-jack would be considered the minimum. Since this hand does not meet those requirements, you can do no more than respond two no trump and await developments.

Q.8—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ 8 ♦ Q5 ♦ KQJ762 ♦ AK103

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—We wouldn't quibble with either three no trump or four diamonds. However, opposite a partner who trusts your bidding, three diamonds is adequate. This auction shows your 5-4 distribution—with extra values. If you had a minimum 6-4, you would rebid your six-card suit before introducing your four-card suit. The advantage of rebidding three diamonds is that you won't bypass three no trump if that is the right contract, nor play the no trump game when partner has an insecure spade holding.

I & ABOUT

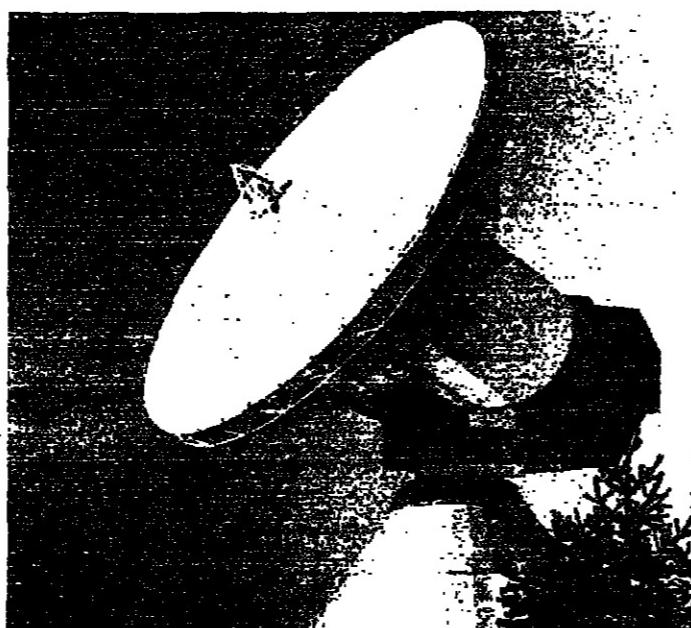
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Aimed and ready



Cable and wireless will soon be old hat in international telephone communications. Intercontinental calls will be relayed by satellite. This West German dish antenna 18.3m (sixty feet) in diameter is aimed at OTS 2, the European orbital test satellite, but in the eighties will relay intercontinental calls via Intelsat V. (Da photo)

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

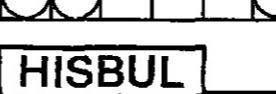
LAWRD



REELD



TRAISE



HISBUL



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **THE** (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANKLE GROUP JERSEY FAMISH

Answer: May stand at the end of the alley—PINS

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



THE Daily Crossword

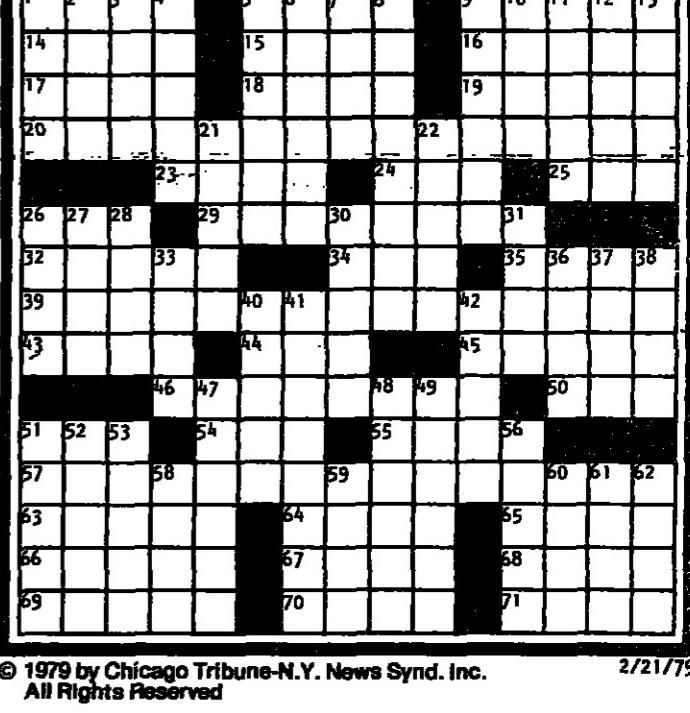
by Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS	34	Roman	63	Fry	22	Kind of potato
1 Cod or May	35	Utah city	64	Table	26	scraps
9 Widen	36	Phrase of	65	Honolulu	27	Chills and
5 Pay phone	37	understanding	66	Berkley	28	fever
8 Receptacles	38	Henri Arnold	67	Head	29	Dirt
14 Flush	39	Bob Lee	68	Foch	30	What
15 marcia	40		49	Arches	31	Vipers
16 Jeopardy	41		50	Sassafraz	32	"we
17 Guarantee	42		51	o longol	33	forget"
18 Glide	43		52	Scot	34	Italian
19 Maxim	44		53	family	35	family
20 Ariadna	45		54	Peak	36	Greek peak
23 Repents	46		55	Household	37	Decadent
24 Resentment	47		56	non-family	38	French
25 Conversation	48		57	member	39	peak
breaks	49		58	Analysis	40	Twisted
26 Russian	50		59	Fusty	41	forbidd
river	51		60	Island	42	Eclipsed
29 Sick color	52		61	off Venezuela	43	Sanctum
30 Wrinkles	53		62	Playground	44	or ear
	54		63	item	45	China,
	55		64	Mongols	46	Japan etc.
	56		65	Washington	47	Decadent
	57		66	Sound	48	Household

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ARIES	MAINE	VAHP
TANGO	ESAU	OBOE
ONE	FAKIND	ILLS
OF	ANON	SLEET
WEEK	SNOW	ANIMATE
WEEKS	ANIMATE	RAP
STAIRS	EVER	GNOHE
STAIR	HEA	EBB
FEET	WEB	STRAINS
SHOOED	FEET	RAPE
ALL	SHOOED	SHOOED
SERB	SHOOED	SHOOED
DAR	SHOOED	SHOOED
RESOUND	LIDS	SHOOED
STAID	EVEN	CIT
PEJORATIVE	CIT	HALF
OPAL	PEJORATIVE	PEJORATIVE
AWAY	MISER	OPAL
ESSE	DEYS	AWAY
DEYS	ENTRE	ESSE

2/21/79



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37009
Soviet Cultural Centre	37009
Spanish Cultural Centre	44203
Italian Art Centre	24049
Hellenic-Yugoslav City	65195
Y.W.C.A.	41793
Y.W.M.A.	64251
Armenian Museum Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	65111
Claudel Museum	36197
Folklore Museum	22090

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 73111
Civil defence rescue	36301-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police (ambulance)	39141
Mobile emergency rescue police (English spoken)	24 hours a day for emergency
Airport information (ALIA)	31111-7
Radio (Emergency)	55205
Police (Police Section)	73111
First aid, fire	

Foreign Minister Sanjabi says Iran will never be used as base against USSR

PRAGUE, April 6 (R) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi was quoted today as saying the new republic wanted good relations with the Soviet Union and would never allow itself to be used as a base against it. In an interview with the Czechoslovakian communist party daily *Rude Pravo*, he added that economic and commercial relations with the other communist countries would continue to develop.

Referring to the United States, Mr. Sanjabi said the U.S. administration had supported the policies of the Shah which had led to mass opposition by the people.

"We hope that our political, economic, commercial and cultural relations with the U.S. will develop in the future on the basis of mutual respect," he said.

During the Shah's rule the western powers had a free hand in

reserves in the World," Mr. Sanjabi said.

"It is for this reason that we want our relations with the Soviet Union to be good and sincere and we shall never allow our country to be used as a base against the Soviet Union. Mr. Sanjabi continued.

"We are a Moslem country and we are interested in friendly and sincere relations with all countries in this area who are still oppressed by world imperialism."

On the Egyptian-Israeli Peace treaty, Mr. Sanjabi said his government was of the same opinion as the other Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"We fully realize our geographical position in which our country borders the Soviet Union and on the other hand belongs in the sphere of the Persian Gulf which contains the biggest oil

Iran "and could do as they wished," he added.

Maintaining its independence, Iran wanted direct and open relations with the whole world, including the West.

"We hope that our political, economic, commercial and cultural relations with the U.S. will develop in the future on the basis of mutual respect," he said.

During the Shah's rule the western powers had a free hand in

Saleck sets up new military committee to rule Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania, April 6 (R) -- President Mokhtar Ould Saleck of the military-backed oil-petroleum economy has taken another step in his crackdown on "traitors" by allowing those being held in prison to nominate their replacements. The president, who ousted the Giscard government and himself had been replaced by a new military committee under his leadership, allowed

them to nominate their own members to the committee, which now includes 12 members.

Early in the early hours of the morning General Saleck dissolved the government and formed a military committee of national salvation to rule the country.

The new committee member may be the capital was

reached calm.

A military spokesman said the former government had condemned the error of having too much power with worn-out militiamen and young idealists.

Others said the move appeared aimed at suppressing opposition among the public minority in the Arab-dominated nation.

The communists said the new committee would continue its efforts to achieve peace in the three-year-old war against the Algiers-backed Polisario guerrillas. They have been fighting the ousting of the former Spanish Sahara by Morocco and Mauritania and demanding the formation of an independent state there.

British politicians assigned bodyguards

LONDON, April 6 (AP) -- Britain's leading politicians, including Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan and Conservative Party leader Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, have been assigned armed bodyguards amid fears of terrorist attacks during the general election, Scotland Yard sources said today.

The move followed an emergency meeting of British police and security chiefs yesterday following the timebomb assassination of Mrs. Thatcher's right-hand man, Tory legislator Airey Neave, outside the House of Parliament a week ago.

The sources said dozens of political leaders, all of them prominent candidates in the May 3 election, will have round-the-clock protection.

Other armed police officers, including plainclothes detectives, will guard election meetings and polling stations on voting day.

Police today issued anti-terrorist instructions to all party leaders and candidates, telling them to vary their habits, check cars and mail every day for bombs and how to minimize the risk of attack.

Security chiefs believe the 63-year-old Mr. Neave was killed by the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), a small revolutionary faction linked to the outlawed Irish Republican Army's "provisional" wing.

Both the INLA and the "provos" have vowed to disrupt the election with terrorist attacks. They seek to make the problem of Northern Ireland, torn by sectarian feuding for 10 years, an election issue.

They want to force the British out of the province to reunite it with the neighbouring Irish Republic. Ireland was partitioned in 1922.

The guerrillas underlined their threat yesterday by killing two British soldiers outside their heavily-fortified Belfast base.

At least two gunmen with automatic weapons ambushed the men as a military patrol returned to the Andersonstown base. The gunmen were hidden in the first floor of a barbershop opposite the installation, one of the most attacked bases in Northern Ireland.

Troops riddled the windows with heavy gunfire, but the gunmen escaped. Security authorities blamed the "provisional" IRA.

Detroit searches for new markets

By Andrew Fisher

DETROIT -- American motor executives are fixing their eyes eagerly on foreign markets these days in the hope that they will prove to be a more vigorous source of future profits than the U.S. itself.

Not is it hard to see why, even though the major Detroit carmakers have long been established abroad. One key reason for the renewed stimulation of interest in doing business outside the U.S. is the belief that growth in the vast home market, where over 11 million new cars were sold last year, will be sluggish at best.

Hence the parade of company officials industriously searching out new foreign opportunities in Europe, Latin America and Asia, and the efforts of national governments to woo these potential bringers of new investment and new jobs.

Ford Motor Company, for instance, has raised the hopes of several European countries with its plan to expand car production in the 1980s, especially after the Ikevairn response of Spain, where the company sited its last major new plant.

Austria, France and Portugal are allying for Ford's investment favours, and heads of government have taken a lively interest in the

progress of negotiations.

China, too, has now emerged as a market of exciting, if uncertain, potential and Detroit has not been slow to take an interest. American Motors, the smallest of the U.S. vehicle carmakers, has already signed an agreement under which the feasibility of making the famous four-wheel drive Jeep will be studied.

AMC is keen to build up world sales of the Jeep, following its recent success at home, and already produces the vehicle in South Korea, India, Pakistan, Australia, the Philippines and other Asian nations through subsidiaries or licence deals.

But AMC will clearly not have matters all its own way in the Chinese market. Both General Motors and Ford are looking hard at the possibilities of doing business with Peking in some form or other, although they are proceeding warily at this stage.

Only three years ago, said Mr. Philip Caldwell, Ford's vice-chairman and president, China had "nothing to suggest opportunities for a capitalist company like ours." Since his visit at that time, however, much had changed, he conceded at a recent meeting with the press. The Chinese were now talking of joint ventures, "which to us means joint ownership", and the realisation of

push into South America.

These are in strong contrast to the relatively sluggish performance being predicted for the U.S. market, even though new car sales have been fairly strong so far this year. In February, total retail deliveries were more than seven per cent above the level for the same month of 1978, which was admittedly a poor one.

According to Mr. Caldwell of Ford, annual expansion of the U.S. car market up to 1987 is expected to be no more than two per cent. Yet outside the North American continent, it should be nearly double this at 3.7 per cent.

Estimates like these explain Ford's keen and much-publicised interest in further European operations and General Motors' desire to beef up its foreign business, principally by making a strong push into South America.

By moving aggressively into the

general motors, (GM), the giant among giants in the U.S. motor industry, has been busily buying up the car and truck operations of the ailing Chrysler concern in Venezuela and Colombia, and also plans to boost its activities in Mexico.

In Europe, where its purchase of the British Vauxhall company in 1975 made it the first American motor group to move outside the U.S., it is also investigating avenues of expansion. Like Ford, it has been talking with the Austrians, although its aims are said to be limited to the establishment of an engine plant.

In Germany, where it bought up Adam Opel AG a few years after acquiring Vauxhall, GM's operations have been generating a solid return in what is often regarded as the world's toughest market.

The reason why Chrysler agreed to the South American sales to GM was a severe shortage of cash. Last year it lost as much as \$205 million after a 1977 profit of \$163 million, while General Motors earned a record \$3.5 billion in 1978, though it professed itself dissatisfied with profit margins - 5.5 per cent against over ten per cent in the mid-1960s - and concerned about inflation.

Chrysler's latest financial statement shows that the company is

With annual growth in the domestic market down to a predicted two per cent for the next eight years, the U.S. car manufacturers are increasingly looking to overseas markets from Latin America to China to provide further expansion.

South American continent, GM hopes to counter some of the looming problems on the home market, including the high cost of meeting fuel and pollution regulations, and to erode some of Ford's foreign leadership. For the profitability of its arch-rival's non-U.S. activities is superior to that of GM, which is the undisputed leader at home.

Thus GM is prepared to spend several hundred million dollars on expanding its business in Mexico, including new car assembly and engine manufacturing plants.

Although Ford sold more vehicles in Mexico last year with a total of 68,000, its 38 per cent growth rate was outstripped by GM's 50 per cent, which brought its figure up to 52,000 units.

Ford also leads GM in Venezuela, but the purchase of the Chrysler factories will double the latter's capacity of some 80,000 units. General Motors is discriminating about the South American market scene, however,

3 police executed in Iran

TEHRAN, April 6 (AP) -- Iranian revolutionary tribunals executed three police officers by firing squad before dawn today and opened the trial of an air force general in a major revival of action against officials of the old regime.

The 4 a.m. executions in the central Iranian city of Isfahan and the opening of a new trial in Tehran followed the publication yesterday of a new decree permitting revolutionary courts to renew operations after a three-month hiatus.

Unofficial reports said several other trials were also under way today in Tehran. State radio said the Tehran trial of Major General Iraj Amini-Afshar opened in early afternoon and that the verdict could be known by evening.

Those executed this morning in Isfahan included two men accused of interrogating or torturing suspects held by Savak and a policeman condemned for killing an anti-Shah guerrilla.

The executions took place in the presence of a representative of the local prosecutor's office and clergymen. Revolutionary courts executed more than 60 people until Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini suspended their activities March 16.

World News Briefs

Qatar raises price of crude 17 per cent

BAHRAIN, April 6 (R) -- Qatar has raised the price of its crude by more than 17 per cent, backdated to April 1, in a move which brings it into line with higher official OPEC prices and incorporates large surcharges, oil industry sources said yesterday. The source, Doha, the Qatar capital, said the price of Qatar's cushion Dukhan crude has been set at \$17.04 a barrel and that of offshore Halul at \$16.85 a barrel. The previous prices were \$14.56 for Dukhan and \$14.29 for Halul, which means rises of 17 and 17.9 per cent respectively for the two Qatar oils. Qatar is one of OPEC's smaller producers with an output of about 500,000 barrels a day.

Iran needs services of foreigners'

BONN, April 6 (AP) -- The principal spokesman for the revolutionary government says the government needs the services of foreigners for the development of the country now that the Shah has been deposed. In an interview with the newspaper Bild, Prime Minister Amir Entezam also predicted the regime, headed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, will have restored order in the country within a few months. "We need the foreigners for the development of the country," Mr. Entezam said. "Foreigners are known for their hospitality. Therefore, foreigners come here, as long as they are not against the revolution."

Senator Baker joins U.S. presidential race

DOVER, New Hampshire, April 6 (R) -- Senator Republican Howard Baker joined the race for his party's 1980 presidential nomination. The 56-year-old Tennessee moderate told a press conference yesterday, "I am a candidate for president." Senator Baker, the fourth nationally known Republican to declare his candidacy, what is expected to be a long and bitter battle between the conservative and moderate wings. Other Republicans who declared are former Texas governor John Connally, Illinois congressman Phil Crane, and Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut. Like Mr. Baker, Mr. Weicker was a member of the Senate committee which investigated the Watergate scandal and helped drive the then-president Richard Nixon from the White House in 1974.

Bonn: Afghans protest Soviet regime in Kabul

BONN, April 6 (AP) -- A group of Afghan students took over their country's embassy today to protest the pro-Soviet regime in their homeland, police said. Officials said Afghan diplomats had left the building, and police were trying to remove the students, despite the "General Union of Afghan Students Abroad." A spokesman for the students told reporters the takeover was designed to draw attention to the "terror regime" in Kabul, which he said was "fully under the influence of the Soviet Union."

China, Vietnam peace talks to start next week

PEKING, April 6 (R) -- China said today it would start talks with Vietnam next week -- providing "no further conditions created by the Vietnamese side." The New China News Agency said Vietnam had been informed that a Chinese delegation headed by Foreign Minister Han Nai Long planned to arrive in Hanoi on April 14. Among the problems which will be discussed in Hanoi is alignment of the disputed frontier between the two countries.

'Time is ripe for big quakes in Japan, U.S.'

PARIS, April 6 (R) -- American and Japanese scientists said could be ripe for big earthquakes in heavily-populated regions. They based their fears on evidence of major seismic movements at regular intervals dating back for centuries in southern California and the industrial coastal area of Japan west of Tokyo.

The scientists were attending an international symposium on earthquake prediction yesterday organised by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Dr. Robert Wesson of the U.S. Geological Survey told a conference substantial seismic disturbances occurred once every 160 years in southern California.

The last such movement, in the Los Angeles area, was Dr. Wesson said. "So we are now within range of this next one."

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